

## Bijleveld congratulates AVP Aruba on victory

THE HAGUE--Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten over the weekend sent a congratulatory message to leader of the Aruban people's party AVP Mike Eman. "It is a great victory for the AVP," said Bijleveld-Schouten on Sunday before departing for Curaçao in connection with constitutional talks. AVP won twelve seats during Friday's elections in Aruba, four more than in the previous elections. The State Secretary said she was glad the elections took place in a relative tranquil atmosphere. She said she hoped to work well with the AVP on Kingdom level. "That is also very important for the constitutional process," she said. Bijleveld-Schouten is familiar with the AVP, a party she knows from the period when she was a member of the Second Chamber. During her visits to Aruba, she met several times with the AVP and other opposition parties, including the Party for Real Democracy PDR which managed to secure one seat in Aruba's Parliament in Friday's elections. "There has always been contact with the opposition," she said. Asked about the pending investigation by the Dutch Scientific Study and Documentation Centre WODC into the state of affairs on Aruba, Bijleveld-Schouten said that this analysis would start shortly. "The assignment is ready," she said, explaining that parties had agreed to look at ways how to conduct this investigation in cooperation with Aruba. The investigation, which will take about six months, should be ready next year. Aruba's Prime Minister Nel Oduber blamed the Dutch Government for losing Friday's elections. Citing various reports in the Antillean and Aruba media, the Dutch magazine Elsevier on Sunday headlined: "Election defeat is fault of the Dutch." According to Oduber, the Netherlands interfered in local politics by announcing that there would be an investigation into the quality of Aruba's government and the crime situation. □

## US Vice Consul James Hogan still missing

# Curaçao, Holland & USA continue search for James Hogan



CURAÇAO - The manhunt is being carried out by a 150-strong team including the Curaçao police, the Dutch coastguard, US Marines, a US Navy helicopter crew and the Curaçao Citizen Rescue Organization. The 49-year-old diplomat apparently told his wife he was going for a walk but never returned. On Friday his jeans were found in a remote spot near Caracas Bay on the east coast of the island and the US Consulate officially reported him as missing. Police say they are investigating all possible scenarios including violence, kidnapping and domestic issues. They describe the case as their top priority and Curaçao's Justice Minister Magali Jacoba is being kept informed of every development. On Friday morning at 09.00 a.m., Mrs. Hogan reported that her husband was missing. The evening before he left his home and never returned after he left his home to go for a walk.



Friday morning the detective department of the police of Curaçao started with a search quickly followed with Counsel for the Prosecution together with the police deciding to form a Large Scale Investigation Team (abbreviated T.G.O.). The T.G.O. falls under the supervision of a special task force comprised/formed for this investigation. T.G.O. initiated an investigation at approximately 3.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m. T.G.O. took over the investigation started by the investigation team between 09.00 a.m. - 15/16.00 p.m. T.G.O. consists of approximately 15 to 20 agents.

The Priority is to find Mr. James Hogan. At home, information was given as to where he takes his daily walk. The entire route in question was searched. The area is known as "Toni Kunchi". An investigation was conducted in that area. Family members and colleagues were also heard.

The Police sent out a press release on Friday with information on the disappearance.

Incoming information and tips were investigated and verified. A passerby found clothes in the vicinity of Baya Beach and informed the police.

The search party focuses on that particular area. For this reason an investigation was also initiated at sea. The Royal Dutch Navy, the US Navy plus the helicopter pertaining thereto, all these instances



form a part of the search and investigation team. The Royal Dutch Navy is also conducting dive expeditions to this end. Clothes were found and there were also traces of blood on the clothes and right next to where the clothes were found. There is a possibility that the clothes which were found belong to the missing person in question. A description and the brand of the clothes he was wearing when he left home to go for a walk was given. On Sunday said clothes and traces of blood were sent to the NFI (Dutch Forensic Institute). Curaçao is being assisted by the Dutch Forensic

Investigation Team from the Forensic Institute of The Netherlands since last Sunday.

Curaçao is in use of four dogs trained especially in the realm of finding missing persons which were provided by said Dutch Forensic Institute of The Netherlands.

The investigation site was covered with a tent because of rain showers.

The Antillean authorities are working together with The Netherlands, and the United States in connection with the search operation.

This is a broad spectrum investigation. □



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# The trade wind picks up the bill with Engysol's wind turbines

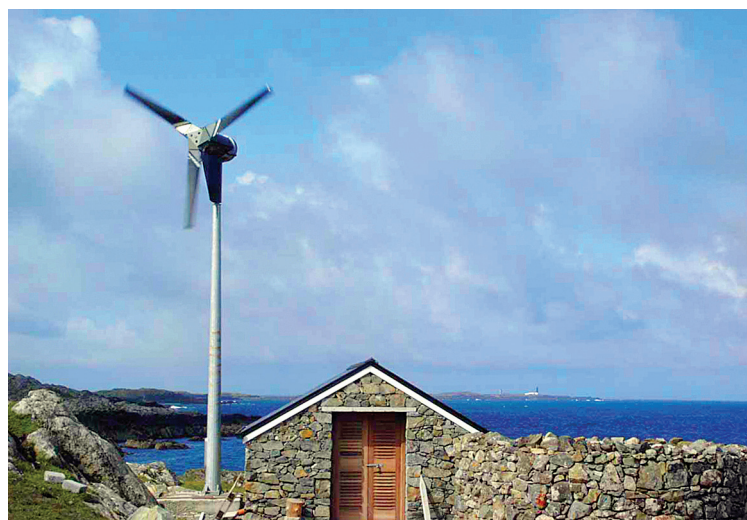


ORANJESTAD - A Windmill that generates energy behind your house, the trade wind picking up the bill, that is the solution of the future to your sky high monthly electricity bill. On windless or rainy days, 'normal' energy is used, but during the rest of the time it will be nature's bounty that does the work. That is what

Engysol NV, a new local company, is promising. Engysol is the company of engineer Freddy Vargas (30), who was born in Colombia, but who grew up on Aruba. He has studied in Holland. During the past three years he has been an MTS teacher on Aruba, but in August 2008 he took the step to start his

own firm. With his technical background and specialized in renewable energy, Freddy is Proven Energy's Caribbean supplier, the world's leader in the field of small wind turbines. Currently Proven Energy is branching out and it is conquering the world as we speak, starting in the US, South America and the Caribbean. This British firm has already a thirty year-experience in Europe; it has built up a global reputation for reliable turbine performance. With the world's focus on green energy and with President Obama behind it all the way, wind turbines and solar energy will be the road of the future for sure.

"These wind turbines sell themselves," explains Freddy. Although the initial cost is the same as one would pay for a compact car, the figures tell their own, lucid story. "One pays off a wind turbine in 5 to 7 years, but its lifetime is 25 years minimum. Your electricity bill from Elmar will be reduced by 70 to 80 percent, making the investment very sound indeed." The windmills are between 6.5 and 15 meters high, making them ideal to catch the free energy from the wind. "The only extra costs for the client are the



foundation for the turbine and an annual maintenance visit." The wind turbines are made of super durable marine quality stainless steel and they have flexible blades that adapt to any wind condition. They function even during hurricanes, is Engysol's promise. With engineer Vargas' know-how and the financial

backing of a group of investors, Engysol looks ready to fly high. If you wish to know more about Engysol's wind turbines, please look up [www.engysol.com](http://www.engysol.com) or [www.provenenergy.com](http://www.provenenergy.com). The wind mills come in three different sizes. Remember: the sky is the limit when it comes to wind energy! □



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*At the Amsterdam Manor*

# A perfect sunset wedding for Christine & Gunter

EAGLE BEACH - Christine Mya-San & Gunter Weber said "I Do", last August 14th, '09 in front of Amsterdam Manor's famous Fofoti Tree.

The couple said they chose Aruba for the beauty of the Island and the friendliness of the people... "The beaches with its deep blue water, the white sand.. we wanted to share the beauty of Aruba and the Amsterdam Manor with our friends & family, which we truly did".

Aruba remains in our hearts and in our minds every day, our experience was absolutely amazing.

Often people are scared or nervous at the thought of a destination wedding, but with understanding and friendly coordinators like

Anne Maduro &

Lissy Lampe, we were at ease the entire time, and were able to enjoy Aruba and rest assure that everything was going to come together beautifully, and it did!

After the beach blessing, accompanied by friends & family, the festivities continued at Passions Restaurant "dining under the stars". Without a doubt it was the most special day of our lives thus far, we would gladly do it again in a heartbeat.

That being said, we are already discussing our next trip to Aruba!

The Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, C&C and Aruba Today extend their Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Weber, and hope to see them back soon in Sunny Aruba ☐



## Small hotels off to St Thomas retreat

PHILIPSBURG -- Members of the Small Hotels Division (SHD) of the St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association (SHTA), along with in-office coordinator for SHD's activities, Jr. Project Manager Valya Pantophlet will be leaving early next week to attend the CHTA's (Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association) Small Hotels Retreat in St. Thomas.

The goal of this retreat is to exchange ideas with other small hoteliers and industry professionals

on marketing strategies, customer retention and product improvement among other areas. The retreat will be held at the Marriott Frenchman's Reef from September 30 to October 2, 2009.

Small hoteliers developed this event for hoteliers. This event will focus on marketing skills, technology, and human resource development. Seminars and round table discussions cover different aspects of those critical areas. In addition, allied members who specialise

in serving smaller hospitality operations will demonstrate their products and services at the trade show. The Retreat is an informal gathering by design, intended to foster the open exchange of ideas and experiences.

While the event is developed by small hoteliers, the event's informality and exchange allow for every hotelier to increase their knowledge by attending the event. In total, the event will feature 84 hotel delegates from 18 countries ☐

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## David & Margaret Sling honored at the Divi All Inclusive

ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Divi All Inclusive vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title.

The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at the Divi All Inclusive they call their home away from home. David & Margaret Sling were honored as Distinguished Visitors after visiting Aruba for 10 years. Pictured: ATA Rep.

Ricardo Croes together with David & Margaret and also staff from the Divi All Inclusive



## Melvin Trost honored at the Amsterdam Manor Resort

EAGLE BEACH - Recently at the Amsterdam Manor Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Amsterdam Manor Resort, they call their home away from home. Melvin Trost was honored as a Distinguished Visitor after visiting Aruba for 10 years.



Pictured: Mr. Melvin together with Michelle and Jurgen van Shaijk from the Amsterdam Manor.



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Exciting Events Calls For Local Winners At Stellaris Casino

# Super Cool "Pimping" Car Give-A-Way Final Drawing October 30th

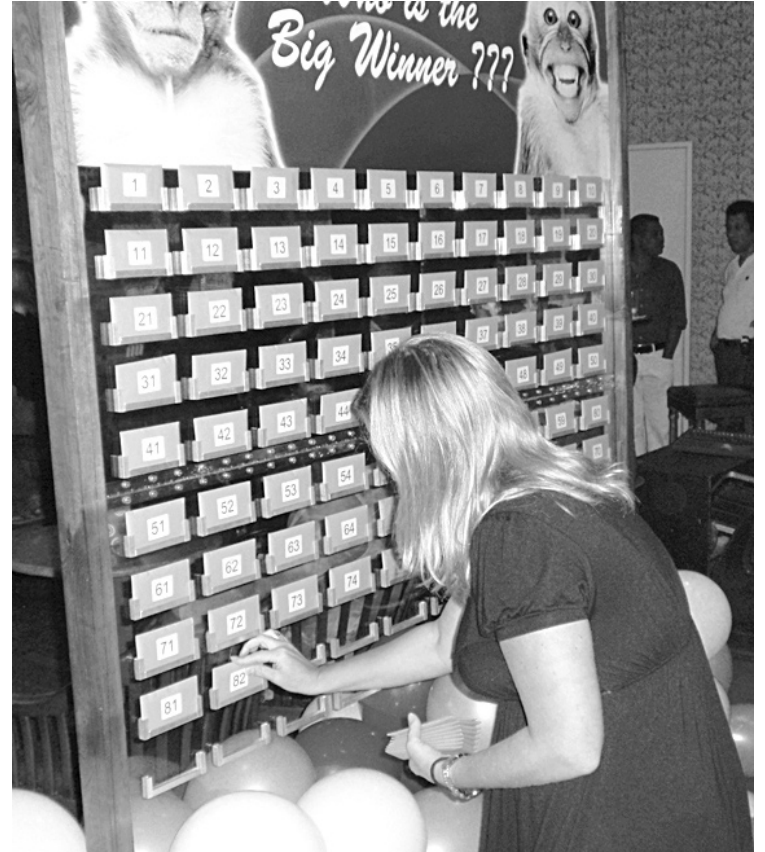


PALM BEACH - On Friday September 18th 2009, Marriott's Stellaris Casino closed the ending of the "Your Chance to Win a Million Florins" promotion. The casino was jam packed with anxious casino guests, waiting for their name to be called. Starting at 9 PM, the Stellaris added an additional Afl. 1,800 for the raffle. At 11:00 PM, the casino called 10 casino guest's names to choose a number on the board for a chance to win 1,000,000.00 Aruban florins. Among the 10 lucky casino winners where local guests Candida Lamp (Afl. 600), Anna Daou (Afl. 600), Casimira Tromp (Afl.700), Laurens Oduber (Afl.800), Sharon Robert (Afl.900), Margaret Leppo (Afl. 1,000), Aura Martinus (Afl. 1,500), Thomas Burns (Afl. 2,000)

and Carmen Maduro (Afl 2,500). Final candidate Mr. Edward Griffith received the ultimate chance to go to the board and pick a winning number. Mr. Griffith picked his lucky number 7 and won the total amount of Afl. 6,000. At the end of the drawing, the highest money prizes were not chosen. The grand prize of Afl. 1,000,000.00 was hidden behind number 86. The next day, Aruba's largest casino called for a bingo celebration. Loyal local bingo player Mrs. Maria Norberto won the Progressive Bingo at Stellaris Casino at the 49th bingo call winning the large sum of Afl. 90,953.45 (\$50,529.69). Normally, Mrs. Norberto shares all their winnings with her two bingo friends. On this festive day, it was no exception.

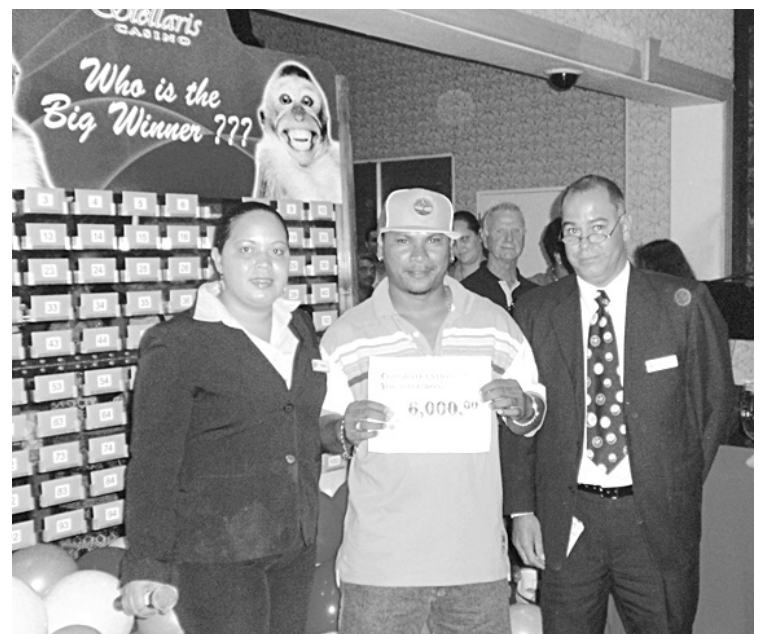


Yet another special promotion, Super Cool "Pimping" Car Give-away, started on September 25th. For every 20 points earned at Marriott's Stellaris Casino, you will receive one ticket. With this promotion, you have a chance to win a brand new car. The final drawing for the super cool car give-away is on October 30, 2009. More information on Aruba's largest casino and events can be found on [www.stellariscasino.com](http://www.stellariscasino.com). The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. In the pictures: Winner progressive bingo Mrs. Maria Norberto with her friends and Stellaris Casino management Ryan Ridderstap, Yazira Feliciano and Rouel Starke. Mr. Edward Griffith winner of 6,000 florins together Stellaris Casino management Adolf Everon and Yazira Feliciano



Casino guest picking her lucky card to win one million florins. A jam packed Stellaris

Casino on the night of the "Your Chance to Win a Million Florins" promotion



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# \*\*\* Human Hints Daily \*\*\*

*Your Energy Signature*

We talk a lot about our daily actions, thoughts, emotions and decisions, which make up our awareness. What do you focus on?

What energy occupies your mind and consumes your time each day?

Your focus and awareness create your Personal Energy Signature, which is transmitted out from your body, into all forms of energetic expression. Your energy travels to infinity, and it affects all vibrational energies in three dimensions and beyond.

What energy are you emitting into the Universe? Are you an understanding, compassionate, accepting person? Are you patient and cooperative? Do you unhesitatingly go out of your way to help a stranger or a bug, just because you can? Or do you seek to control others in order to serve your own motives? There is a fine line and a huge difference between guiding children to protect them from their lack of foresight, and controlling them because we're selfish.

The energy you generate and emit into the Universe is the same energy the Universe reflects back to you in your three dimensional life. Since

we are all just learning this, there is a time delay in three dimensional manifestation. This is a built-in safety mechanism so that whatever pops into our minds doesn't suddenly pop into our lives. Our minds are wild and unpredictable, and not always benevolent. The time delay will diminish as we learn to tame our thoughts.

When we realize that we are all connected, we naturally don't hurt or dominate each other. Forces of suppression exist only because we are immersed in the illusion that we're separate from each other. In Unity Consciousness, our thoughts will be vastly different than what goes on in our minds today, and we will have no reason to fear ourselves or each other. When we no longer need the time delay safety switch, manifestation will be instantaneous. We can only dream of what our challenges will be when we reach that level of power and responsibility.

The energy you generate is reflected back to you, but that's not the only energy you will encounter in your life. The intent of our spirit is beyond our awareness. We can't know

the lessons we signed up to learn, until we learn them. Even though we create our reality, sometimes bad things happen that we don't expect. Usually it is a spiritual lesson that we signed up for when we entered our body. When it's beyond your control, it's usually best to let go and surrender your future to your Spirit, until your new challenges become clear. Faith is trusting in your own Spirit to provide you whatever you need.

Be aware of the energy you are sending into the Universe. It is your Energy Signature that you cannot hide or fake. There is no Energy Identity Theft in the Energetic Realm. How do you represent yourself to the Infinite Energetic Expressions? When an entity encounters your energy, would they be intrigued or repulsed? Would your energy empower or disgust those who encounter it? It is entirely up to you.

Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger  
Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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## Max Phelipa, Nicole de Weever honoured on World Tourism Day



PHILIPSBURG--Tourism Commissioner Frans Richardson honoured two "St. Maarten ambassadors" whose efforts not only promote St. Maarten internationally, but serve as examples for others to follow. Artist Max Phelipa and dancer Nicole de Weever were honoured on World Tourism Day Sunday for their contributions to St. Maarten.

Phelipa, who will open an art exhibition in the Antillenhuis in the Netherlands in October, was praised by the Commissioner for his artwork that depicts various scenes of St. Maarten. Richardson told Phelipa that the people in Holland will appreciate his talent as an artist but at the same time will be able to learn quite a bit of where he hails from.

"This is also promotion for our island. There is a segment of tourists in the world that appreciate art and we can tap into this,"

Richardson said. Phelipa, who was accompanied by his wife Aggie, thanked the Commissioner and the St. Maarten Tourist for the honour.

Nicole de Weever, who will make her Broadway debut in "FELA!" in November, was called a shining example and role model for St. Maarten's youth. Accepting her honours were her parents Rudy and Beatrice de Weever. Commissioner Richardson told Nicole's parents that she is a true role model in a time when St. Maarten's youth could use many more.

"I watched Nicole when she was performing here on the island with Motiance Dance School and I am so proud to see how far she has come. I'm even more proud that she never gave up on her dream. I have made it a priority to attend 'FELA!' in New York. I will be there and I encourage all St. Maarteners who might be in the New York area after the show debuts on November 24, to make an effort to go see and cheer Nicole. She is doing all of us proud," Richardson said.

Nicole's father said he was not convinced at first that she should follow dance as a career choice. It was not an easy road, he said, but the family is happy and proud that they had supported her on her journey.



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on the menu and they are already well known for our daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work only with fresh and honest

products!

Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as we have a kids playground and a kids menu to entertain them, so they can enjoy their

dinner as much as you will yours!

We have entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you

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day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's lead-ing dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

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*The Eagle Pier*

# Aruba As It Was Over Half A Century Ago



**Eagle Beach 2009. What a contrast! Tourism has definitely improved the looks of our coastline.**

ORANJESTAD - Few Casa Del Mar realize that of our tourists who swim at one time this was where at the beautiful beach at the Eagle Oil Company, a Harbor Master of Aruba, Aruba Beach Club and SHELL subsidiary, had its took the photo around



Eagle Pier with oil storage tanks in the background, circa 1950. Torpedo from the German U-156 missed the "Arkansas" and landed on the beach 16/02/1942 (T).

1950). Although the water here is quite turbulent, many Arubans used to fish under the pier. The oil tanker "Arkansas" was docked here on the night of February 16, 1942 when the German submarine U-156 launched a torpedo that missed its target and landed on the beach. Approximate location marked with a T. Four Dutch marines died while trying to defuse the torpedo. Picture of the beach and the hotels as they exist now is courtesy of Aruba Bound, Flying Into Aruba. □



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At the Aruba Marriott Resort

# Jo-Anne & Frank Conti renew vows of marriage



PALM BEACH – Jo-Anne Conti-Sisto and Frank Conti renewed their vows of marriage on the beach this last weekend at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino.

The Conti's have been married for 10 years and actually celebrated their honeymoon on Aruba when they decided that they'd re-do their vows on the island in 10 years. They adopted Aruba as their home away from home and have purchased over the years 7 weeks at the Aruba Marriott's properties. As owners of the weeks, they are not only newlyweds again, they are committed Distinguished Guests of the island of Aruba.

Jo-Anne and Frank celebrated their Anniversary with dozens of family and friends aboard the Jolly Pirates cruise and a reception on the terrace at the Aruba Marriott's La Vista Terrace. The Wedding day started at the Alto Visa Chapel with a intimate ceremony and candle lighting for Jo-Anne's parents Rachel and Joseph Sisto and Frank's parents Anna and Frank Conti. Rev Geoffrey officiated the sunset ceremony with their toes in the sand on the beach at the Marriott with the exchange of rings, vows and kisses. The Conti's celebrated with a champagne toast and official cutting of the cake followed by a reception at MooMba Beach.

Congratulations to Jo-Anne



and Frank Conti and all of their guests from Aruba Today, the Aruba Marriott Resort, Jolly Pirates, MooMba Beach and

all of their wonderful family and friends who joined them on this wonderful occasion ☐

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~





# Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse offering Spa Cuisine



Palm Beach – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing

flavors with citrus, spice and herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains. "We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," he adds, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs. "The Sunset Grille kitchen," Smeets reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banters, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine." Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred;" the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon



to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □



and Scallops served with the popular Soba Noodles. The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Smeets explains. Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing

# Stop at the Juggling Fish, Playa Linda Beach Resort before you hit the beach



Palm Beach – From sexy to conservative, you will find bathing suits in all styles and colors at the just-recently-renovated Juggling Fish Boutique on the seaside boardwalk at Playa Linda Beach Resort. Any Aruba vacation is a beach-holiday and many island visitors join the locals where the surf meets the sand, enjoying a fresh combination of sun & sea for a week. Not before buying a new bathing suit. Which is often a daunting task. Not at the Juggling Fish. There, it is bathing suit shopping made easy! You will find an extensive collection of swim wear at the Juggling Fish, which is open daily from 9am to 7am, also on Sunday 10am to 6pm, to accommodate busy schedules. You will find bathing suits for the entire family including babies, boys, girls, teenagers, young adults, moms and dads; even grandpas and grandmas are guaranteed to find some fetching pairs of swim trunks,



or two-piece tankinis. And the bikini bathing suits are mix and match, tops and bottoms sold separately, for a perfect fit. Beach sandals, beach bags,

towels and accessories, anything beach related is available at the cute store. Tel: 586 7948. Got a question or a special request? Email: orders @salamanderholdings.com □





## Date, conditions focal points for Bijleveld

THE HAGUE--The Dutch delegation will focus on two main issues during Wednesday's meeting of the Political Steering Group in Curaçao: the date for new constitutional relations and the conditions that Curaçao and St. Maarten will have to comply with.

"We will see if we can reach an agreement on a date, but we will also take along the conditions that the countries have to comply with as well as the legislation trajectory in the talks," said leader of the Dutch delegation State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten on Sunday, shortly before boarding a plane to travel to Curaçao.

Bijleveld-Schouten didn't venture in mentioning a specific date for the new relations to go into effect. Neither did she try to forecast how Wednesday's meeting would go. She indicated, however, that she had great expectations. This also has to do with the fact that the mixed committee was still busy with preparations for the meeting. "We will await the outcome," she said.

The State Secretary said she was also looking forward to the meetings on Monday and Tuesday when the arrangements of the new police organisations and the joint police service would be discussed. The latter is an important aspect, she said. "It is an important condition for solid countries," she said.

A number of political parties in the Second Chamber, including the Socialist Party (SP), don't want the Dutch Government to commit to a specific date for the new constitutional relations. Bijleveld-Schouten showed understanding for this view, but said that it was especially important for the Dutch Parliament that the new countries complied with all conditions that were set in the November 2006 Final Accord.

The State Secretary doesn't expect trouble in the Second Chamber as long as solid agreements are made about the possible tasks that the new countries won't be able to execute when the new relations go into effect. At the Final Round Table Conference (RTC) it would be agreed to transfer these tasks to Kingdom level.

The next step after Wednesday's Political Steering Group meeting is the finalisation of the legislation trajectory. "That is very important. The islands have to work very hard to get their Constitution and organic laws ready, and to build their countries," she said.

The Constitutions of country Curaçao and St. Maarten don't need to be approved by the Second and First Chamber. These will be put to the test at the Final RTC. The Consensus Kingdom Laws and the legislation for the BES islands Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius do have to pass through the Dutch Parliament.

Bijleveld-Schouten said she aimed to have the written answers to the list of questions by the Second Chamber about a number of BES laws ready early October. "I have asked the Second Chamber to handle the legislation proposals in October so they can go to the First Chamber before Christmas," she said. □

## Special Olympics honours donors, launches Website

LITTLE BAY--Several individuals and businesses in the community were honoured for supporting St. Maarten's intellectually challenged athletes during a cocktail reception in commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Special Olympics Foundation St. Maarten (SOSM) on Friday evening.

The foundation also launched its Website [www.so-stmaarten.org](http://www.so-stmaarten.org), which contains information about the foundation, its athletes and activities. Those honoured were presented with a framed drawing by Special Olympics athlete Albert Arndell.

Honoured were Sudi and Katsiaryna Özkan of Port de Plaisance, Imran McSood of NAGICO Insurances, T. Chulani of Chulani NV, C. Vayani of Super Plaza, Norman Wathey of Taloula Mango's Frans Mulder of the White and Yellow Cross Foundation, a Gold Sponsor who wished to remain anonymous and former board members Meredith Boekhoudt and Malka Scheepens.

First Lady Angela Richards-Huggins said that as a non-profit organization SOSM relies on private donations, goods, service providers and fundraising events to fuel its work.

The First Lady said she was grateful, proud and happy to celebrate the milestone with SOSM's sponsors, supporters and athletes.

"Throughout the years we have achieved a lot and I can proudly say together we have made a difference.

We are confident that with your continuous support we can do more. As an organization we accepted this challenge, not just as a project, but also as a commitment.

She said the Foundation will remain committed to providing year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports and to improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities with proper instructions and encouragement, so that they can learn, enjoy and benefit from participation in Special Olympics sports.

She also outlined some of the accomplishments and activities of the foundation since formed in 2004. "Over the years we have seen the numbers

of our athletes expand from 10 in 2004 to 60 athletes today - 50 athletes from Prins Willem Alexander School and 10 from Sr. Basilia Centre." She said too that the number of coaches has grown with 10 trained and certified according to SO rules now.

She said the Foundation's goals are to achieve empowerment and dignity for the athletes by creating innovative opportunities, to change negative attitudes and misperceptions about people with intellectual disabilities, often rejected or forgotten, through positive public awareness.

Sports Commissioner Frans Richardson commended the Foundation for its milestone and lauded their work with the intellectually challenged.

Lt. Governor Franklyn Richards said the foundation had spent half a decade enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. "During the past five years, the foundation and its volunteers have been changing the lives of people on the island with intellectual disabilities through sports," he said.

"Special Olympics around the world has evolved to become a leader in the field of intellectual disability allowing those with challenges the opportunity to train and compete and, in doing so, to reach their full potential. Here on our little St. Maarten, we should be proud of what has been achieved within a five-year period. While we have made great strides over the years, let us reflect and at the same time recommit our efforts to continue to help create a world of acceptance for persons with a disability."

He said the Special Olympics family in St. Maarten was truly saddened to hear of the loss of SO Founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver earlier this year.

"As we celebrate our fifth anniversary, I would like to leave you with these words that were delivered by the late Eunice Kennedy Shriver when she declared the first International Special Olympics games - now referred to World Games - officially open, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." □



*The Caribbean Edge*

# The U.S. Military's Presence in the Greater Caribbean Basin: Is it Trade Strategy and Ideology or Drugs?



**Joint Task Force Bravo in Action**

**Alex Sanchez**

Washington's initiative to have access to at least seven Colombian military facilities has been criticized as an extension of the controversial Plan Colombia and as a breach of fealty to its sister republics. Suspicion also has surfaced that the base deal was fundamentally a move against Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, and would prove a recurring obstacle to fulfillment of U.S. policy goals in the region. Two of the facilities soon to be available to the U.S. are located in the Caribbean region – the military port in Cartagena and the air base in Malambo – and will serve the needs of the U.S. Navy.

The new Caribbean coast facilities will join an array of existing U.S. military establishments in the region dating back to 1903. Until now, the official *raison d'être* for a U.S. presence in the Caribbean was to combat drug trafficking.

However, the proliferation of security threats, in particular developments possibly against the interests of Chávez's Venezuela, has led some to argue that no matter how much Washington's officials deny it, an unspoken reason for the U.S. deployment to Colombia is to keep Chavez under check. With the Washington-Bogotá decision, it is necessary to discuss the relationship between masking anti-narcotics efforts as a cover for a variety of U.S. security concerns and aspirations throughout Latin America, especially in the coming trade war over commodities.

Caribbean Bases-R-US Up until the transfer of the Panama Canal to the Panamanian government and the withdrawal of the U.S. Air Force equipment

from Howard Air Base in 1999, American defense strategy favored large military facilities abroad. The strategy seems to have changed in recent years, with the Pentagon opting for smaller facilities and a more modest posting of personnel. Active U.S. bases in Latin America are known as "Forward Operation Locations" (FOL) or "Cooperative Security Locations" (CSL).

The decision by the Correa administration in Ecuador not to renew the lease on the U.S. military complex at Manta forced Washington to look for alternatives. Peru was interested in hosting one such base, as this was seen as aiding the country in its fight against the remnants of Sendero Luminoso and serve as a deterrent against its traditional strategic foe, Chile, which in recent years has been undergoing a military build-up.

In the end, Washington policymakers chose Colombia to be the U.S.'s primary regional base for operations in the northern tier of South America and the Caribbean. Access to the Colombian bases will likely mean new deployments of U.S. personnel above the 300 U.S. troops currently stationed there; however, the figure will not surpass the maximum of 800 troops (and 600 contract workers) as agreed upon by both countries. The two proposed bases where American troops will be deployed along Colombia's Caribbean coast are Malambo (Air Base Alberto Pouwels) and Cartagena (ARC Bolívar). Interestingly, only one base on Colombia's Pacific coast will be used, in Buenaventura in the Valle del Cauca. The bases in Malambo

and Cartagena facilities will significantly add to Washington's already formidable military presence in the Caribbean. This includes:

- **El Salvador** – According to the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, the U.S. Navy routinely flies P-3 MPA and E-2C AEW out of Comalapa International Airport. The base is used for counter narcotic operations in the Eastern Pacific. A 2001 International Relations Center report explained that there is "no limit on the number of U.S. personnel who have access to any ports, air space, and unspecified government installations that the U.S. deems pertinent." The bill accepting U.S. deployment in El Salvador was passed in 2000 under the presidency of Francisco Flores amid protests by the FMLN, a left-leaning political movement that was created by former leftist rebels who participated in the country's civil war and who now hold the country's presidency. U.S. Forces in the region are under the command of the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), whose senior officer is also the head of the Fourth Fleet. At the same time, the Comalapa CSL is part of the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF) based in Key West, Florida.

- **Honduras** – The Palmerola/Soto Cano base is the home of Joint Task Force-Bravo. Around 500 U.S. military personnel are deployed there, in addition to 600 U.S. contract civilians, both Americans and Hondurans. The mixed bag of American military troops includes the 612th Air Squadron. In recent years the Honduran government expressed interest in taking over Soto Cano and transforming it into a civilian airport (so Tegucigalpa wouldn't have to bear the expense of building a new one). If that were to transpire, the American military probably would be forced to move to an undisclosed area in the Honduran rainforest. It is unclear, with the ongoing events regarding the ousted president Manuel Zelaya, if the future of Palmerola will be discussed anytime soon.

- **Curaçao and Aruba** – These Caribbean islands, part of the

Kingdom of the Netherlands, host two bases used to interdict air and maritime drug shipments. The U.S. military at these locations works in coordination with the Dutch-assisted local Coast Guard units in the islands. Washington has a presence in Curaçao as it leases part of the airport for anti-drug operations. The detachment stationed there includes U.S. military personnel as well as DEA agents. AWAC aircraft are utilized for monitoring suspicious air and sea traffic involving Caribbean waters. According to a November 2008 article in the Dutch daily NRC Handelsblad, in that year, 214 tons of cocaine, 166 tons of heroin and five tons of marijuana were intercepted by U.S. patrols taking off from the airbase on Curaçao.

- **Cuba** – It is easy to forget that Guantánamo Bay is actually a military facility, given its publicity in recent years as a prison for individuals accused of terrorism. However, the base has been operated by the U.S. since 1903, without an ending date for the American military presence there, at least as long as Washington continues to pay the lease. The base is intended to serve as a repair and refueling center for Coast Guard and Navy vessels. This part of Guantánamo is controlled by the U.S. Navy Station (reflecting the base's original mission), currently commanded by Navy Captain Steve Blaisdell. The other component of Guantánamo is namely to accommodate detainees accused of terrorism, called Joint Task Force-Guantánamo. It is currently led by Rear Admiral Tom Copeman, with Army Brigadier General Rafael O'Ferrall as its deputy commander.

- **Antigua** – The U.S. military established a base in Antigua during World War II, which was named Coolidge Airfield. The Antigua Air Station exists today out of part of the former Coolidge AFB. A 2007 press release by the government of Antigua & Barbuda highlights a meeting of Prime Minister Baldwin Spence and the head of the U.S. station. The release explains that the U.S. Air Station "operates under a Government to Government agreement with the United States. ... Under the agreement, the United States Air Force leases

lands from the Government in the vicinity of the V C Bird International Airport."

- **The Bahamas** – The Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) is located in Andros Island in The Bahamas. The center is utilized for testing of new types of weaponry. Globalsecurity.org defines it as "the Navy's premier east coast in-water test facility." AUTEC's website explains that the center is "affiliated with the NATO FORACS [Naval Forces Sensor and Weapon Accuracy Check Site] program and the eight participating NATO member nations: Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States."
- The U.S. also is routinely utilizing facilities in Vasco Núñez de Balboa, a major port in Panama, for supplies and refueling.

**Military exercises**  
Apart from leasing military facilities abroad, the U.S. armed forces have improved ties with other regional security forces by carrying out joint military exercises. Three of the most commonly known military exercises are Tradewinds, UNITAS and PANAMAX.

The Tradewinds military exercises are organized by the U.S. and carried out with Caribbean states on themes such as combating drug trafficking, dealing with terrorist threats and disaster relief. Tradewinds 2009 was held in March and April and included exercises staged in The Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Miami. According to SOUTHCOM's website, more than 400 participants took part in the exercises, coming from the U.S., the U.K., and fifteen Caribbean Basin states.

The 50th anniversary of UNITAS, a multinational maritime exercise, took place this year at the Jacksonville Operational Area in Florida. The exercises this time were dubbed Unitas Gold – in order to commemorate the anniversary. SOUTHCOM has published a comprehensive report of UNITAS' history which can be found on its website. The at-sea phase of the exercise took place this past April. As part



of the live-fire exercises, the warships sunk, as planned, the ex-USS Connolly. According to an official release, in total, Unitas Gold brought together 25 ships, four submarines, more than 50 aircraft, 650 Marines and 6,000 sailors from 11 different countries. Latin American powerhouse Brazil sent two vessels, the frigate Constituição and the submarine Tikuna. Fuerzas Aliadas (FA) PANAMAX is an annual multinational military exercise held in Panama to protect the Canal. PANAMAX'09 took place in mid-September, lasting 12 days with more than 4,500 troops from 20 countries. A U.S. Navy press release explained that “the multinational forces protecting the canal approaches will be organized under Multi-National Force-South and commanded by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Keith M. Huber, commander of U.S. Army South. This year, the exercises simulated a terrorist threat” against the Panama Canal, said Gerald W. Ketchum, U.S. Operation, Preparation and Mobilization sub-director from the Southern Command.

Finally, this past July, 600 military personnel visited Guyana for humanitarian and civic assistance exercises dubbed New Horizons 2009. The exercise, sponsored by SOUTHCOM and Air Forces Southern (12th Air Force), built a new clinic and a new school house, while carrying out other civic projects. What is curious about the situation is the importance Guyana is slowly gaining for SOUTHCOM ever since a 2007 incident in which Venezuelan military units entered Guyana. With New Horizons, Guyana, and the bases in Colombia, the American military now has (or has had, in Guyana's case) some kind of military presence in all of Venezuela's geographical corners, with the exception of Brazil. This may be the first time in its history as an independent state that Guyana has received such sustained attention from Washington. Usually, it is regarded as a largely poor state where corruption has been cited as the country's primary obstacle to the creation of viable institutions and democratic processes.

**Shiprider Agreements**  
In addition to an increasing military presence in the Greater Caribbean Basin, the U.S. has sought to combat drug trafficking by signing the Shiprider Agreements (full name: Agreement Concerning Co-operation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime Drug Trafficking). These agreements brought together a number of regional states, such as

Barbados in 1996 and Jamaica in 2004. In certain cases, Shiprider allows the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy to board and detain vessels when going through the territorial waters of Caribbean states if there is evidence or well-founded suspicion that said vessels are committing a crime, such as drug trafficking. Depending on the nature of the bilateral agreement, U.S. agents can ride in local coast guard ships or vice-versa.

**The Fourth Fleet and Overlapping Commands**  
As the deployment of American troops to Latin America continues to expand, important questions arise concerning the future of the Fourth Fleet. Established in 1943 and based in Mayport, Florida, the fleet's historic mission to protect the Caribbean Sea from raiders during World War II, was disbanded in the 1950s. The reactivation of the Fleet in 2008 has been regarded as one of the most incoherent and unproductive decisions by the former Bush administration regarding the Western Hemisphere. Rear Admiral Victor Guillory, who is also the commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, is the current commander of the Fourth Fleet. In fact, the Fourth Fleet, at the present time, only exists on paper. No permanent ships have been assigned to it, nor will any be. According to the Fourth Fleet's website, “no vessels or aircrafts will be permanently assigned to U.S. Fourth Fleet as part of the re-establishment. U.S. Fourth Fleet is an organizational fleet staffed to fulfill a planning and coordination mission.” Its objective is “strengthening friendships and partnerships and [it] will have five missions: support for peacekeeping, Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, traditional maritime exercises, and counterdrug support operations.”

**Missions and Fantasies**  
A “U.S. Fourth Fleet Talking Points” sheet provided to COHA by the Fourth Fleet Press Office states, that “because of the complex operational environment and number of maritime missions in the area [...] Fourth fleet will be able to provide more effective support to SOUTHCOM and the region.” However, given the wide array of bases and security initiatives mentioned earlier, it is unclear how the fleet will be of any help, especially considering that it exists only for organizational purposes and does not control actual warships. If anything, the first impression when looking at the Fourth Fleet is that it will bring more bureaucracy to a region

that, as it stands, already suffers from too many different oversight organizations and procedures, joint task forces and bilateral agreements with regional states. The Caribbean bases in Colombia will test the relationship between the Fourth Fleet and SOUTHCOM in regards to the use of warships in operations to counter drug trafficking. So far it seems that both names are interchangeable, and it is unclear what kind of operations the Fourth Fleet could carry out that SOUTHCOM, or one of its already established components, could not. This question further highlights the perception of the Fleet as an example of redundant bureaucracy. According to a Summer 2009 issue of Surface Warfare, the Fourth Fleet has sponsored military exercises and operations such as Southern Partnership Station (U.S.-organized multinational amphibious exercises with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay) and Continuing Promise (relief services and civic assistance to Latin America and Caribbean states). The new fleet also was commander of PANAMAX 2008 and UNITAS 2009. However, it remains to be seen whether the reconstitution of the Fourth Fleet is improving the control of these operations when compared to their pre-Fourth Fleet level of performance.

**Where are the enemies?**  
The multitude of initiatives of the U.S. military throughout the Caribbean raise several questions. For example, does the U.S. have a coherent overall policy towards the Caribbean? In recent years, drug trafficking has lent the rationale for Washington's military presence in the Caribbean. However, it is important to keep in mind that the cost of overseas troops can be justified to a critical public only by the expression of a clear, practical goal, e.g. stopping (or at least trying to stop) the flow of drugs into the U.S. In a March 2009 testimony before Congress, Rear Admiral Wayne E. Justice of the Coast Guard, explained that “[there] has been a change in the primary smuggling routes to the Central America littorals where smugglers attempt to evade U.S. patrol efforts by operating in the territorial sea of partner nations. The Coast Guard has actively targeted this trend through a series of 27 maritime bilateral counterdrug agreements and arrangements with partner nations that include all or some of the following provisions: shipboarding and shiprider agreements; pursuit, entry and over-flight of the territorial sea; order to land for aircraft; and

operation center information exchange protocols.” The aforementioned Surface Warfare issue includes a special section concerning the Fourth Fleet. The section includes interviews with former Rear Admiral Joseph Kernan and current Rear Admiral Guillory of the Fourth Fleet. Both of them identify the prevention of illicit trafficking as one of their top priorities. When it comes to the U.S. bases in Colombia, the reason de jure for their existence is, of course, to combat drug trafficking.

Due to the nature of their regimes, Cuba and Venezuela stood out as security threats for conservative American policymakers. However, despite these contentious views regarding both states, it is generally accepted that Venezuela, notwithstanding its surge of military purchases, could not possibly stand up to U.S. military might. Cuba poses even less of a threat; its armed forces do not have access to modern and well-functioning equipment and a high degree of training, and it primarily acts as an internal police force. Under no circumstances is Cuba an international threat, least of all to the United States. The cooperative defense deal between the U.S. and Colombia is presented by their respective leaders as an effort to directly help the South American country tackle its conflict with drug traffickers and guerrilla groups. However, it cannot be denied that these bases, combined with the two nearby bases in Curaçao and Aruba, will allow Washington to keep track of any clandestine activities conducted by the Venezuelan government, and other leftist developments occurring in the area. Considering Secretary of State Clinton's recent warning that Chávez's military purchases could spark an arms race in Latin America, Washington views the access to Colombian bases as a welcome development in an increasingly strategic region plagued by insecurity. Cuba poses even less of a threat; its armed forces and their aged equipment do not have access to modern and well-functioning equipment and a high degree of training, and its armed forces primarily act as an internal police force.

**The Caribbean: Washington's Lake once again?**  
It may be a stretch to argue that the U.S. has militarized the Caribbean. However, the new base agreement with Colombia, as well as the expansion of other facilities in the region, suggests Washington's serious commitment to something above

and beyond just combating narcotrafficking. The persistent drug trafficking and insurgent problem in Colombia, combined with Venezuela's ongoing military purchases (mostly from Russia), were most likely the two major thrusts guiding the Pentagon to initiate the Colombian base agreement. While it arguably will aid local authorities with their fight against drug trafficking, it will at the same time also facilitate the monitoring of Venezuela and other South and Central American left-leaning countries. Military exercises, although they carry with them a small sacrifice of sovereignty, will most likely continue to be necessary for small Caribbean states in order to improve mainly their own internal security so that they can tackle issues like drug trafficking, which an obsessed Washington will just not let go away. The Fourth Fleet, on the other hand, is not likely to pose a security threat to regional governments, and will probably result in bureaucratic redundancy as it will likely be serving little more than a symbolic image. The Fleet will have to prove in the coming years why a fleet without specifically designated warships can be useful for SOUTHCOM's role in its operations.

American military presence in the Caribbean Basin has been steadily expanding, justified domestically as a necessary measure to combat ballooning drug production and terrorist movements. However, there is little indication that these military forces significantly have impacted the overall volume of illicit drugs entering the U.S. market from the south. Preventing speedboats from carrying cocaine off the coast Florida or stewarding drug mules operating at the Bogotá Airport with tickets to Miami or Madrid, may merely win small battles, but it will not win the war. By focusing on military efforts, American anti-drug policy has failed to address, for example, the key role that social problems play in the perpetuation of an illicit economy. Development projects that tackle poverty in producer countries, such as Colombia and Peru, and in transit countries, such as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and those in Central America, are badly needed. Unfortunately, the grand plan that the Pentagon and the DEA have proposed does not focus on improving social conditions, but merely on increasing U.S. military might.

Alex Sanchez is a research fellow with the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, from where this article was adopted. □



# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

### Xerox, Abbott deals boost stocks; Dow gains 135



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, September 24, 2009.

By IEVA M. AUGSTUMS  
and TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Corporate dealmaking is boosting investors' hopes for a recovery in the economy. Stocks jumped Monday after Abbott Laboratories said it would buy the pharmaceutical business of Belgian chemicals maker Solvay for \$6.6 billion and Xerox Corp. agreed to acquire Affiliated Computer Services for about \$6.4 billion.

A weaker dollar is boosting commodity prices, which in turn helped send materials and energy stocks higher. All major indexes rose more than 1 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which added 135 points.

The takeover moves are a welcome sign that businesses have enough faith in a recovery in the economy to pursue acquisitions. In the past year, companies grew so worried about the economy that they were hesitant to part with cash and often had trouble lining up financing. "It's encouraging to all

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

investors when you see companies buy because basically what that says is they're in a more aggressive mode as opposed to being in the fetal position," said Mark Coffelt, portfolio manager at Empiric Funds in Austin, Texas.

In early afternoon trading, the Dow rose 135.43, or 1.4 percent, to 9,800.62.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 17.63, or 1.7 percent, to 1,062.01, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 44.44, or 2.1 percent, to 2,135.36.

Bond prices were mixed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.33 percent from 3.32 percent late Friday.

The dollar mostly fell against other currencies, while gold prices rose.

The stock market's rise breaks a three-day slide that gave the market its worst week since early July. The losses were modest given how far stocks have climbed since major indexes slid to 12-year lows on March 9. The S&P 500 index is up

54.4 percent since then.

Abbott Labs rose \$1.47, or 3.1 percent, to \$48.80.

Johnson & Johnson Inc. rose 76 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$61.38, after it bought an 18 percent stake in Dutch biotechnology company Crucell NV for \$440 million in hopes of developing a universal flu vaccine.

Among information-technology companies, Affiliated Computer jumped \$5.94, or 12.6 percent, to \$53.19, while Xerox fell \$1.58, or 17.6 percent, to \$7.39.

Investors pumped money into other IT services companies following the move by Xerox. Accenture PLC rose \$1.71, or 4.7 percent, to \$37.83, while Unisys Corp. rose 28 cents, or 11.7 percent, to \$2.68.

Crude rose 74 cents to \$66.76 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange as the dollar slid. Commodities are priced in dollars so a weak greenback makes them more appealing to foreign buyers.

More than four stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 424.4 million shares compared with 539.2 million shares traded at the same point Friday. Trading was light as some market participants were out for Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 14.71, or 2.5 percent, to 613.65.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 1.6 percent, Germany's DAX index rose 2.8 percent, and France's CAC-40 advanced 2.3 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 2.5 percent. □



Traders work at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. Europe's main stock markets diverged with Frankfurt rising after Angela Merkel was re-elected German chancellor, while London and Paris both fell.

(AFP/DDP/File/Thomas Lohnes)

### Frankfurt stocks rise after Merkel win

LONDON (AFP) — Europe's main stock markets diverged on Monday with Frankfurt rising after Angela Merkel was re-elected German chancellor, while London and Paris both fell. The FTSE 100 index dropped 0.23 percent to 5,070.73 points in late morning London deals.

Frankfurt's DAX 30 climbed 0.49 percent to 5,608.75 points and in Paris the CAC 40 shed 0.29 percent to 3,728.47 nearing the half-way mark.

The DJ Euro Stoxx 50 index of top eurozone shares retreated 0.18 percent to 2,826.74 points.

Merkel set to work on Monday on a new centre-right coalition after securing a second term, but warned Germans of hard work ahead to solve the crisis stricken economy and other problems. Merkel clinched a new four-year mandate on Sunday with an election score allowing her to dump an awkward "grand coalition" with the Social Democrats (SPD) for an alliance with the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP).

"I think we've really earned the right to celebrate tonight," a beaming Merkel, Germany's first female leader and the only chancellor from the former communist east, told jubilant supporters late Sunday.

"But I want to say to everyone in this country that I want to be the chancellor of all Germans, so that things improve for our country. "We have a lot of work ahead of us," she warned.

In Britain, the beleaguered governing Labour Party led by Prime Minister Gordon Brown promised tough new action on bankers' bonuses on Monday, as it fights for its life ahead of general elections next year.

Amid such a backdrop, London's FTSE 100 index headed south, weighed down by weak banking, energy and mining sectors.

"It's been a choppy start to the new trading week for the London index," said IG Index market strategist Anthony Grech.

"Although the news from Wall Street at the end of last week was far from upbeat, the weaker pound and some positive earnings news seems to have at least slowed the decline in London."

Wolseley, the world's biggest distributor of plumbing and heating products, said on Monday that it fell into a net loss of 1.17 billion pounds during its last financial year but its share price rallied as investors cheered its outlook. □



# Jackson sneak peek screenings sell out in 2 hours



Michael Jackson backup dancers writes on a poster as the fans arrive to buy tickets the 'Michael Jackson's This Is It' film, at L.A. Live in Los Angeles, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009. Tickets for the advance screening will go on sale Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009. The film was produced from hundreds of hours of backstage footage of rehearsals last June at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's 'This Is It' film, which is still playing to sell out to the music documentary

"Michael Jackson: This Is It" sold out within two hours early Sunday as fans who began lining up three days earlier snapped up all 3,000 tickets to the Los Angeles shows. The documentary opens nationwide Oct. 28, but fans will get a sneak peek the night before in screenings at the new Regal Cinemas Stadium 14. For the theater's grand opening, the cinema will show "This Is It" on all 14 screens that night. Directed by longtime Jackson collaborator Kenny Ortega, "This Is It" draws on hundreds of hours of footage as Jackson prepared for a series of London concerts for which he was rehearsing before his death on June 25. □

## Last member of Silhouettes has died at SC home

By SEANNA ADCOX,  
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Rev. John "Bootsie" Wilson, a former lead singer and last surviving member of the soul group The Silhouettes, has died. He was 69.

The Michael A. Glenn Funeral Home confirmed Monday that Wilson died Sept. 21 at his home in Spartanburg, S.C., after an extended illness.

The Philadelphia native joined The Silhouettes in 1961, after the original lead singer left the group, perhaps best known for the 1958 smash hit "Get a Job," which stayed at No. 1 for 13 consecutive weeks. It was among the first rhythm and blues songs to cross over and become No. 1 on the pop charts.

"They called 'Get a Job' the national anthem of doo-wop. It spearheaded a whole subgenre of doo-wop, where the bass singer was the star," said Elaine Lewis, the widow of original member Richard Lewis, who wrote the song. Ten years later, Wilson recorded the song with the group, re-branded as The New Silhouettes, on the album, "The Original and New Silhouettes — '58/68 Get A Job."

Other notable recordings by the group with Wilson included the 1962 "Move On Over (To Another Land)."

Its 1963 single "Rent Man" was a hit in Philadelphia, and its 1968 recording "Not Me Baby" — which Wilson in an interview earlier this year called his favorite — went on to become a 1970s dance hit in Great Britain, said music historian Charlie Horner of Classic Urban Harmony of Somerset, N.J.

"John's songs, I think, were the best ones. Somehow 'Get a Job' got all the attention, but clearly John was the best lead singer they had, hands down. He had a marvelous voice," said Elaine Lewis, 62.

Wilson and Richard Lewis were friends before Wilson officially joined The Silhouettes. He sang with Lewis in 1957 and with the group at other times, Wilson told Elaine Lewis in an interview in February published online.

Elaine Lewis said Wilson cried when he listened to the old songs during a visit to her Philadelphia home.

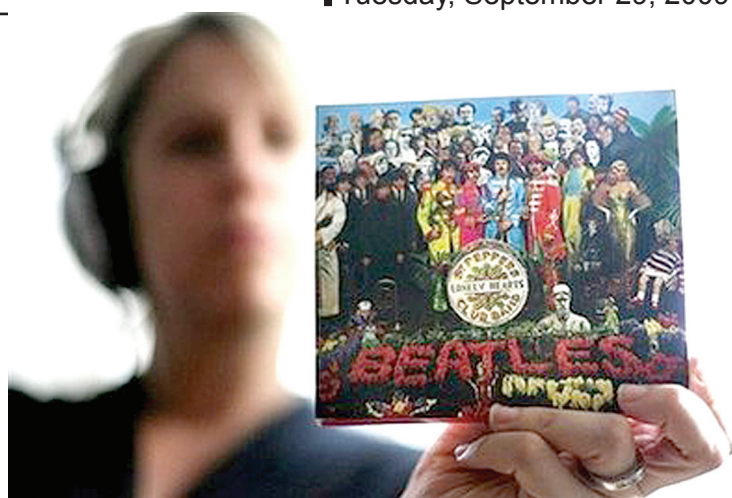
"He was so proud of that part of his life, his life as a Silhouette," she said. "He was so nostalgic about that period of his life, and he missed his fallen comrades."

A Web site maintained by her daughter, Shana Lewis, calls Wilson a lost hero of 1960s soul music.

"The group didn't get the promotion and the push they deserved," Elaine Lewis said. Wilson moved to South Carolina in 1972 and became a minister two years later. He served as an African Methodist Episcopal pastor for three decades at eight churches, according to the funeral home.

"It's an end of an era. The Silhouettes were one of the greatest vocal groups of all time," said Horner, who interviewed Wilson in April. Even though Wilson wasn't on the initial recording of "Get a Job," he added, "he was a big part of Silhouettes history. It's sad to realize The Silhouettes are gone now."

Survivors include Wilson's wife, Pauline. His funeral was Saturday. □



A copy of The Beatles' "Sgt Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band" album is held by a listener in London in 2007. The woman who inspired The Beatles' legendary song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" had died aged 46 from an autoimmune disease, the charity that supported her announced Monday.

(AFP/File/Chris Young)

## Lucy of 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds' fame dies

By GREGORY KATZ,  
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Lucy Vodden, who provided the inspiration for the Beatles' classic song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," has died after a long battle with lupus. She was 46.

Her death was announced Monday by St. Thomas' Hospital in London, where she had been treated for the chronic disease for more than five years, and by her husband, Ross Vodden. Britain's Press Association said she died last Tuesday. Hospital officials said they could not confirm the day of her death.

Vodden's connection to the Beatles dates back to her early days, when she made friends with schoolmate Julian Lennon, John Lennon's son.

Julian Lennon, then 4 years old, came home from school with a drawing one day, showed it to his father, and said it was "Lucy in the sky with diamonds."

At the time, John Lennon was gathering material for his contributions to "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," a landmark album released to worldwide acclaim in 1967.

The elder Lennon seized on the image and developed it into what is widely regarded as a psychedelic masterpiece, replete with haunting images of "newspaper taxis" and a "girl with kaleidoscope eyes."

Rock music critics thought the song's title was a veiled reference to LSD, but John Lennon always claimed the phrase came from his son, not from a desire to spell out the initials LSD in code. Vodden lost touch with Julian Lennon after he left the school following his parents' divorce, but they were reunited in recent years when Julian Lennon, who lives in France, tried to help her cope with the disease.

He sent her flowers and vouchers for use at a gardening center near her home in Surrey in southeast England, and frequently sent her text messages in an effort to buttress her spirits.

"I wasn't sure at first how to approach her," Julian Lennon told the Associated Press in June. "I wanted at least to get a note to her. Then I heard she had a great love of gardening, and I thought I'd help with something she's passionate about, and I love gardening too. I wanted to do something to put a smile on her face." In recent months, Vodden was too ill to go out most of the time, except for hospital visits.

She enjoyed her link to the Beatles, but was not particularly fond of "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds."

"I don't relate to the song, to that type of song," she told the Associated Press in June. "As a teenager, I made the mistake of telling a couple of friends at school that I was the Lucy in the song and they said, 'No, it's not you, my parents said it's about drugs.' And I didn't know what LSD was at the time, so I just kept it quiet, to myself." □



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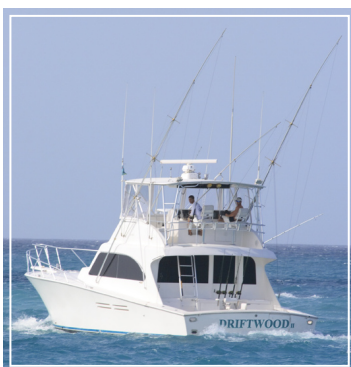
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On Top Of The News

Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com)

Tuesday, September 29, 2009



**FILE** - In this Sept. 16, 2009 file photo, President Barack Obama uses a light saber as he 'attacks' Olympic fencer Tim Morehouse who won a silver medal in Men's Saber Fencing at the Beijing Olympics. Obama will travel to Denmark to support Chicago's bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics, projecting the highest-ever White House profile in lobbying for the international event.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

# Olympics plea: Obama's risks, possible reward

By JULIE PACE,  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's decision to fly to Denmark to support Chicago's Olympics bid elevates the Games to an issue of national importance — and exposes him to political risks as well as rewards at a critical point in his presidency.

Obama's presentation in Copenhagen on Friday will be the first time a U.S. president has appeared before the International Olympic Committee to lobby for an Olympics. Obama initially had said he couldn't make the trip because he needed to tend to the health care debate at home.

As the White House announced the change of heart on Monday, there seemed to be increasing confidence that the votes could be stacking up Chicago's way to host the 2016 Summer Games. If Chicago does come away the victor in the four-way race — Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo are the other contenders — Obama could get a political boost for helping to deliver the Games to his adopted hometown and for handing the U.S. a fresh source of national pride.

If the U.S. loses, he still might get points for trying. But he would be visibly tied to a failed effort — and to the spending of political capital on an endeavor many Americans might

consider unworthy of so much of a president's time and energy.

This is something Obama can ill afford when the public already shows signs of fatigue with his major efforts on so many fronts at once, many so far unfulfilled.

"If you actually go to Copenhagen and meet with the Olympic committee, you're really on the line to deliver," said Darrell West, a political analyst at the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

The president already has a lot on the line. He's re-examining his administration's strategy in Afghanistan, managing the shaky U.S. economy and pushing hard for health care overhaul.

Aides say Obama didn't make the decision to travel until this past weekend, after he returned home from the G-20 economic summit in Pittsburgh and consulted with first lady Michelle Obama and senior adviser Valerie Jarrett.

They both were already planning to travel to Copenhagen as the U.S. delegation leaders, due to depart Tuesday.

The president decided that the contentious health care negotiations were "in a better place," making the trip possible, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said.

*Continued on Page B4*

## Lawyer: Polanski will fight extradition to the US



Polish director Roman Polanski attends a news conference for the film "Chacun son Cinema" at the 60th Cannes Film Festival in this May 20, 2007 file photo.

REUTERS/Jean-Paul Pelissier/Files

By BRADLEY S. KLAPPER  
and ONNA CORAY,

Associated Press Writers

ZURICH — Imprisoned director Roman Polanski is in a "fighting mood" and will battle U.S. attempts to have him extradited from Switzerland to California to face justice for having sex with a 13-year-old girl in 1977, his lawyer said Monday.

*Continued on Next Page*



A resident pushes his brother, riding in a tub in floodwaters brought by typhoon Ketsana, locally known as Ondoy in Pasay city, south of Manila September 28, 2009. The Philippines appealed for international aid to help tens of thousands marooned by flashfloods, and apologised for the delays in rescue efforts to avoid potential political fallout from the crisis.

REUTERS/Noli Yamsuan

## 140 die in Philippine storm, toll expected to rise

By TERESA CEROJANO,  
Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines — Rescuers pulled more bodies from swollen rivers Monday as residents started to dig out their homes from under carpets of mud after flooding left 140 people dead in the Philippine capital and surrounding towns.

*Continued on Page B6*





Partial exterior view of the district prison in Zurich, Switzerland, Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, where, local media claim, Polish-French director Roman Polanski is being held over a 1977 child sex case in Los Angeles. The international tug-of-war over Roman Polanski escalated Monday as France and Poland urged Switzerland to free the 76-year-old director on bail and pressed U.S. officials all the way up to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the case. Polanski, who pleaded guilty three decades ago to having sex with a 13-year-old girl, was arrested Saturday, when he arrived in Switzerland to receive a lifetime achievement award at the Zurich film festival. Polanski awaits a possible extradition to the United States.

(AP Photo/Keystone, Walter Bieri)

## POLANSKI

*Continued from Page B1*

An international tug-of-war over the 76-year-old director escalated Monday as France and Poland urged Switzerland to free him on bail and pressed U.S. officials all the way up to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the case.

Polanski was in his third day of detention after Swiss police arrested him Saturday on an international warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award from a film festival.

Authorities in Los Angeles consider Polanski a "convicted felon and fugitive." The director had pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. He was sent to prison for 42 days but then the judge tried to renege on the plea bargain. On the day of his sentencing in 1978, aware the judge would sentence him to more prison time, Polanski fled to France.

Polanski has told Swiss officials that he will contest a U.S. request that he be transferred to the United States, attorney Herve Temime said in an e-mail. Temime said Polanski's legal team would try to prove that

the U.S. request was illegal and that the Oscar-winning director should be released from Swiss custody.

"Taking into account the extraordinary conditions of his arrest, his Swiss lawyer will seek his freedom without delay," Temime said.

The lawyer said he was able to speak with Polanski from his Zurich cell and that the director was allowed to meet with his wife, French actress Emmanuelle Seigner.

"He was shocked, dumbfounded, but he is in a fighting mood and he is very determined to defend himself," Temime said.

Now a complicated legal process awaits all sides. While France expressed hope that Polanski would be freed shortly, Swiss officials said there would be no rash decision.

The Swiss Justice Ministry on Monday did not rule out the possibility that Polanski, director of such classic films as "Chinatown" and "Rosemary's Baby," could be released on bail under very strict conditions that he doesn't flee Switzerland.

Justice spokesman Guido Balmer said such an arrangement is "not entirely excluded" under Swiss law and that Polanski could file a motion on bail. But he said Switzerland's top criminal court would undertake a thorough examination of evidence before deciding on any request, and that would take time.

"This is a legal story," Balmer told The AP. "There is no room for political pressure."

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said he hoped Polanski could be quickly freed by the Swiss, calling the apprehension a "bit sinister." He and his Polish counterpart Radek Sikorski wrote to Clinton and called Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey about the case.

"(Polanski was) thrown to the lions," said French Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand. "In the same way that there is a generous America that we like, there is also a scary America that has just shown its face."

Polanski, who has dual French-Polish citizenship, has hired

Swiss attorney Lorenz Erni to represent him in Switzerland. Polanski seems most likely to spend several months in detention, unless he agrees to forgo any challenge to his extradition to the United States. Under a 1990 accord between Switzerland and the U.S., Washington has 60 days to submit a formal request for his transfer. Rulings in a similar dispute four years ago over Russia's former atomic energy minister Yevgeny Adamov confirmed that subjects should be held in custody throughout the procedure.

The U.S. request for Polanski's transfer must first be examined by the Swiss Justice Ministry, and once approved it can be appealed at a number of courts.

The 2005 saga over Adamov's extradition, eventually to Russia and not the U.S., took seven months. The case also set a possible precedent for France, which may wish to try one of its own nationals in a domestic court rather than in Los Angeles.

For now, Polanski is living in a Zurich cell where he receives three meals a day and is allowed outside for one hour of daily exercise.

Rebecca de Silva, spokeswoman for the Zurich prison authorities, refused to say exactly where Polanski was being held for security reasons, but said cells are usually single or double occupancy and that each room contains a table, storage compartment, sink, toilet and television.

Family and friends can only see Polanski for an hour each week, but that does not include official visits from lawyers and consular diplomats, de Silva said.

The Justice Ministry insisted Sunday that politics played no role in its arrest order for Polanski, who lives in France but has spent much time at a chalet in the luxury Swiss resort of Gstaad. That has led to widespread speculation among his friends and even politicians in Switzerland that the neutral country was coerced by Washington into action.

Temime, Polanski's lawyer, told the daily Le Parisien that the filmmaker stayed in Gstaad for months this year. □

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# AP source: NYC terror probe focuses on accomplices

By TOM HAYS and  
DEVLIN BARRETT,  
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — After interrupting what they believed was a terrorist plot on New York City with a series of raids and arrests, authorities have intensified their focus on possible accomplices of the suspected al-Qaida associate at the heart of the case, a law enforcement official said Monday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation continues, confirmed that investigators know the identities of at least three people believed to be in on a bombing plot they say might have targeted mass transit in the New York area.

Authorities released a flurry of terrorism warnings for

sports complexes, hotels and transit systems even while saying the plot was disrupted before it become an immediate threat. But many questions remain unanswered, including the whereabouts of co-conspirators and whether any may be cooperating with the probe.

There also have been no reports that any of the bomb-making materials have been recovered.

The accomplices are suspected of traveling from New York City to suburban Denver this summer and using stolen credit cards to help Najibullah Zazi stockpile beauty products containing hydrogen peroxide and acetone, which can be key ingredients for homemade bombs, authorities have said.

Before the raids, police detectives showed a source

— a Queens imam at a mosque where Zazi had once worshipped — photographs of him and three people considered possible suspects, court papers say. It was unclear whether those three were the same ones suspected of traveling to Denver.

The official who spoke to The Associated Press declined to comment further Monday. Spokesmen James Margolin for the FBI, Edward Mullen for the New York Police Department and Robert Nardoza for the U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn declined to discuss the case.

After initially being charged along with his father and the imam with lying to investigators, Zazi was due in federal court in Brooklyn on Tuesday for an arraignment on charges he conspired to use



In this photo released by the New York City Police Department, Najibullah Zazi, center, is escorted off an NYPD helicopter by U.S. Marshals after being extradited from Denver, Colo., Friday, Sept. 25, 2009. Zazi was sent to New York to face charges of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction in a plot law enforcement has said was focused on blowing up commuter trains.

(AP Photo/New York City Police Department)

## Okla. teen claims he was held in closet for years



In this undated police mug photo provided by the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office, Larhonda Marie McCall, 37, is shown in Oklahoma City. McCall and Steve Vern Hamilton, 38, were arrested Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009 on complaints of child abuse and child neglect after a 14-year-old boy told police he escaped from McCall

(AP Photo/Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office)

By SEAN MURPHY,  
Associated Press Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — A woman was arrested after her 14-year-old son told authorities he escaped from a home where he'd been kept for 4 1/2 years, spending most of his time locked in a bedroom closet, police said Monday.

A security guard at a National Guard facility in Oklahoma City called police on Friday after the teen showed up malnourished and with numerous scars and other signs of abuse, police Sgt. Gary Knight said.

"He was hungry. He was dirty. He had numerous scars on his body," Knight said. "It was very sad."

The boy was taken to a hospital to be examined and then turned over to the custody of the Department of Human Services, Knight said.

After police interviews, officers on Saturday arrested the boy's mother, 37-year-old LaRhonda Marie McCall, and a friend, 38-year-old Steve Vern Hamilton, on 20 complaints each of child abuse and child neglect. Formal charges have not been filed, and both were being held on \$400,000 bond, according to jail records.

Jail officials were not sure if either had retained an attorney, and no one answered the phone at McCall's home.

The teen, wearing only a pair of oversized shorts held up by

a belt, walked up to a security guard at the Guard facility around 5 p.m. Friday and asked where a police station was located so he could report being abused, according to a police report.

He told police that scars on his stomach and torso were from where alcohol had been poured on him and set on fire. Other scars were from being tied up, hit with an extension cord and choked, the boy told police.

"He had scars covering most of his body," Knight said. "They were basically from head to foot."

The teen told police he moved to the Oklahoma City area from New Jersey about 4 1/2 years ago after his mother was released from jail. Since arriving in Oklahoma, he said, he had never been to school and spent most of his time locked in a bedroom closet.

He told police the closet door was mostly blocked with a stepladder or a bed and that he managed to push the door open enough to escape and leave the house. □

weapons of mass destruction. The 24-year-old airport van driver has denied any wrongdoing.

A letter filed by Brooklyn prosecutors last week argued that that Zazi should be jailed indefinitely because, as an Afghan immigrant with ties to Pakistan, he could flee, and because he "poses a significant danger" to the community.

Evidence gathered so far — including bomb-making instructions found on his laptop computer — shows "that Zazi remained committed to detonating an explosive device" until he was arrested, the letter said.

Prosecutors allege that Zazi has admitted that while living in Queens, he traveled last year to Pakistan and received explosives training from al-Qaida. Security videos and store receipts show that when he returned and moved to Aurora, Colo., he and three others bought several bottles of beauty products over the course of several weeks, court papers said.

On Sept. 6, Zazi took some of his products into a Colorado hotel room outfitted with a stove on which he later left acetone residue, authorities said. He repeatedly sought another person's help cooking up the bomb, "each communication more urgent in tone than the last," the papers said.

The FBI was listening to Zazi and becoming increasingly concerned as the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and a New York visit by President Barack Obama approached, officials said. They decided to track him on Sept. 9 when he rented a car and drove to New York.

On Sept. 10, Zazi told the Queens imam in an intercepted phone call that he feared he was being watched, court papers said. The imam later tipped Zazi off, saying police had come around and asked questions, the papers said. Zazi cut a five-day trip short and flew back to Denver on Sept. 12. He was arrested a week later. □



# US official says Karzai must earn Afghans' trust



US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates holds a press conference on September 17 at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Gates acknowledged it will be "tough" to close the US prison at Guantanamo Bay by a January deadline set by President Barack Obama.

(AFP/File/Tim Sloan)

By MATTHEW LEE,  
Associated Press Writer  
NEW YORK — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government must earn the trust of the Afghan people by addressing claims of serious fraud in last month's elections.

In a meeting with Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta here on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, Clinton said a credible investigation into those allegations was critical to the legitimacy of

the current administration and whatever government emerges, according to a senior U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private diplomatic exchange.

The Aug. 20 elections were marred by claims of ballot stuffing and voter coercion and officials are now recounting a sample of 10 percent of ballot boxes from 3,063 polling stations with suspect results.

Preliminary results show Karzai winning with 54.6 percent of the vote. But if

enough ballots are found to be fraudulent, Karzai could dip below the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff with chief challenger Abdullah Abdullah.

If a runoff is needed, it will have to take place in the last two weeks in October, before winter snows make much of the north impassable. Missing that window could delay any runoff until spring, creating a power vacuum in a country already struggling to fend off the resurgent Taliban and losing support from international allies. □

## OBAMA

*Continued from Page B1*

The administration was given no advance hint of victory that would make the president's decision less risky, Gibbs said.

Obama's itinerary, allowing him only a few hours in Copenhagen, suggests he is aware he is walking a thin line. The president is flying overnight Thursday, making a presentation to the IOC members on Friday, and returning to Washington the same day. He may not even stick around to see the winning city announced.

Speaking to reporters at The White House Monday, the first lady said she knows his involvement raises expectations for Chicago's bid.

"You're darned if you do, and you're darned if you don't," she said. "I'd rather be on the side of doing it."

She will spend Wednesday and Thursday meeting individual IOC members, then she and the president will each make a presentation during Friday's meeting and take questions from the committee. Mrs. Obama said she's taking with her a lesson learned on the campaign trail.

"One conversation or one example or illustration that connects could make the difference," she said.

The president has long been a supporter of Chicago's bid, and recently sent letters to IOC members promising a "spectacular Olympic experience for one and all."

Heads of state have been instrumental in

recent votes, creating somewhat of a new precedent.

Tony Blair helped London win the 2012 Olympics by traveling to Singapore to meet with IOC members ahead of that vote, and Russia's Vladimir Putin went to Guatemala to lobby in support of Sochi's bid for the 2014 Winter Games.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will be in Copenhagen to make the case for Rio. King Juan Carlos of Spain and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero will be there, too, boosting Madrid, and new Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama will be on hand for Tokyo.

IOC executive board member Gerhard Heiberg, who will cast a vote Friday, said Obama's appearance is a positive development for the U.S. "He is a powerful person and a great personality," Heiberg said. "It will make an impact."

And Karl Christian Koch, secretary general of Denmark's Olympic committee, said Obama's trip increases Chicago's chances.

America's supporters in Copenhagen were already high-wattage. The contingent assembled by Chicago's host committee includes talk show host Oprah Winfrey as well as 14 Olympic and two Paralympic gold medalists.

In addition to the first lady and senior adviser Jarrett, the official delegation includes Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. All are from Illinois. □



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# Leaky dam causes flood worries in Seattle area

By PHUONG LE  
and GEORGE TIBBITS,  
Associated Press Writers

KENT, Wash. — For nearly 25 years Kathy Gladden has lived about 100 feet from the Green River, a normally placid stream that meanders past the many homes, offices, warehouses and shopping malls that blanket the area. Now, she and thousands of others face the all-too-real prospect that the river will gush past a leaky upstream dam and swallow up their homes once the rainy season starts in November, devastating a heavily developed area in the Seattle suburbs that is a vital hub of commerce.

The Howard Hanson Dam began showing disturbing signs of vulnerability after a torrential rainstorm in January, and officials have been warning residents to buy flood insurance, stow valuables in safe places and be ready to flee.

King County has declared a state of emergency that allows it to seek federal reimbursement and speed up work to bolster levees, while the Army Corps of Engineers bought 400,000 sandbags and other flood-fighting materials in the round-the-clock fight to save the dam.

"I can't bear it. It's awful," said Gladden, 72, who hates the idea of having to leave her mobile home park and its tight-knit community. "I never even heard of the Howard Hanson Dam until the trouble started."

The dam, located in the Cascade foothills east of

Seattle, has prevented major floods in the Green River valley since it was completed in 1962. That changed when last winter's heavy rains weakened a hillside next to the dam.

A record 15 inches of rain fell in 12 hours on the Green River's upper watershed in January, sending torrents into the 235-foot-high dam's reservoir. The reservoir rapidly filled 6 feet higher than ever before.

The dam held the water back and remained sound. But at the high water levels, engineers saw worrying signs within the dam's right abutment, a 450-foot-wide pile of rock deposited by a huge landslide 10,000 years ago.

As a temporary fix, the corps is spending \$8.9 million to inject grout into the abutment, forming a shield to lessen the seepage. Without such work, Col. Anthony Wright, the corps' Seattle District commander, said there would be a 1 in 3 chance this winter for flooding in the Green River Valley.

But Wright won't know by how well the fixes will work until tests are performed. Wright said he's "going to do everything possible to prevent flooding downstream, but this structure's ability to do what it's done well for 50 years is hampered and therefore they have a higher risk of that flooding."

The possibility of catastrophic flooding has caused considerable anxiety in the flood-prone area.

Besides homes and apartment complexes, the valley has

hundreds of offices — including headquarters for Boeing Commercial Airplanes — sprawling shopping malls, factories and what the corps says is the third-largest warehouse area in the nation.

"There's \$50 billion of economic activity in the valley, and no one takes that for granted," says Kent city spokeswoman Michelle Witham.

About 25,000 people live on the valley floor, which includes parts of the cities of Kent, Auburn, Renton and Tukwila, but hundreds of thousands work, shop or travel there daily. State officials say 22,000 people might have to be evacuated in a flood.

In a flood, county officials estimate Kent's downtown could be under 6 feet of water, swamping businesses, city offices and the county's regional justice center, which includes courtrooms, offices and a jail that can house up to 1,384 inmates. Already, the county has relocated its election offices from Renton, just south of Seattle, to ensure it can count votes from November's election in the event of flooding.

"I don't understand why they didn't repair it earlier," said Nathan Sorrell, 30, a truck driver who recently bought flood insurance for his Kent home. "This is people's lives. It's not going to be 'Oh, there's water on my lawn.' We're not going to have water, sewer, power. It's almost like a little Katrina." Mamie Brouwer, Hanson Dam's program manager, said the problems



In this Sept. 23, 2009 photo, the downstream side of the Howard Hanson Dam is shown as viewed from the top of the dam, near Ravenswood, Wash. The Howard Hanson Dam began showing disturbing signs of vulnerability after a torrential rainstorm in January, and officials have been warning residents to buy flood insurance, stow valuables in safe places and be ready to flee. Residents face the all-too-real prospect that the river will gush past a leaky upstream dam and swallow up their homes once the rainy season starts in November, devastating a heavily developed area in the Seattle suburbs that is a vital hub of commerce.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

weren't known until January's high water. She said the corps hopes to have a permanent fix — a concrete wall the length of the abutment and reaching down to bedrock — designed within a year and finished after two years of construction — a project that could cost up to \$500 million.

County Executive Kurt Triplett has asked the County Council to approve \$8.4 million to strengthen 40 miles of levees, though he acknowledges there isn't enough time to complete the work before winter. He also wants the cash-strapped county to borrow more than \$32 million for such things as protecting a critical sewage treatment plant, building a flood-proof wall around the

justice center, relocating offices and, if necessary, evacuating jail inmates.

"It is the right thing to do even if the worst-case scenarios don't happen," he said. "Too much is at stake."

Residents are hoping the floodwaters hold off, but preparing for the worst.

Marie Manson has lived in Auburn since 1923 and remembers flooded roads and her father having to constantly pump water from the house before the dam was built. The 89-year-old has bought flood insurance and moved important documents and valuables to safe spots.

"I'll deal with it when it comes," she said. "I don't know what else to do." □

## Teens charged in beating death of Chicago student

CHICAGO — Prosecutors have charged three teenagers with first-degree murder in the beating death of a Chicago student who was walking home from school.

Family members believe the victim, 16-year-old Derrion Albert, was fatally beaten Thursday for refusing to join a gang. But some witnesses say he was a bystander who was swept into a violent fight.

A vigil for Albert is planned outside Fenger

High School on the city's South Side on Monday afternoon.

Police have been using a video purportedly taken by a person at the scene of the beating to help identify people. The video shows several people beating a stomping a person believed to be Albert.

Cook County state's attorney's office spokesman Andy Conklin says the teens were charged Monday as adults. □

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MANILA STORM

Continued from Page B1

Overwhelmed officials called for international help, warning they may not have sufficient resources to withstand another storm that forecasters said was brewing east of the island nation and could hit as early as Friday. Authorities expected the death toll from Tropical Storm Ketsana, which scythed across the northern Philippines on Saturday, to rise as rescuers penetrate villages blocked off by floating cars and other debris.

The storm dumped more than a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours, fueling the worst flooding to hit the country in more than 40 years. At least 140 people died, and 32 are

missing.

Troops, police and volunteers have already rescued more than 7,900 people, but unconfirmed reports of more deaths abound, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said.

He told a news conference that help from foreign governments will ensure that the Philippine government can continue its relief work. "We are trying our level best to provide basic necessities, but the potential for a more serious situation is there," Teodoro told a news conference.

"We cannot wait for that to happen."

The extent of devastation became clearer Monday as TV networks broadcast images of mud-covered

communities, cars upended on city streets and reported huge numbers of villagers without drinking water, food and power.

In Manila's suburban Marikina city, a sofa hung from electric wires.

Since the storm struck, the government has declared a "state of calamity" in metropolitan Manila and 25 storm-hit provinces, allowing officials to use emergency funds for relief and rescue.

The homes of nearly half a million people were inundated. Some 115,000 of them were brought to about 200 schools, churches and other evacuation shelters, officials said.

Resident Jeff Aquino said floodwaters rose to his home's third floor at the height of the storm.

Aquino, his wife, three young children and two nephews spent that night on their roof without food and water, mixing infant formula for his 2-year-old twins with the falling rain.

"We thought it was the end for us," Aquino said.

Among those stranded by the floodwaters was young actress Christine Reyes, who was rescued by movie and TV heartthrob Richard Gutierrez from the rooftop of her home near Manila after she made a frantic call for help to a local TV network with her mobile phone.

"If the rains do not stop, the water will reach the roof. We do not know what to do. My mother doesn't know how to swim," she said, weeping. Gutierrez, a close friend and Reyes' co-star in an upcoming movie, heard of her plight, borrowed an army speedboat and ferried Reyes, her mother and two young children to safety.

Storm devastation

Tropical Storm Ketsana, which struck the Philippines Saturday, left scores of people dead and tens of thousands displaced.



SOURCE: ESRI

AP

"I thought it was our ending but I did not lose hope," Reyes said, thanking Gutierrez. "Let us help those who have not yet been rescued." Rescuers pulled a mud-splattered body of a woman from the swollen Marikina river Monday. About eight hours later, police found three more bodies from the brownish waters. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has said Ketsana and the flooding were "an extreme event" that "strained our response capabilities to the limit but ultimately did not break us."

The United States has donated

\$100,000 and deployed a military helicopter and five rubber boats manned by about 20 American soldiers from the country's south, where they have been providing counterterrorism training. The United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Program have also provided food and other aid.

Activists, meanwhile, pointed to the deadly flooding as an example of the dangers of global warming at U.N. climate negotiations in Bangkok.

"The Philippine floods should remind politicians and delegates negotiating the climate treaty that they are not just talking about paragraphs, amendments and dollars but about the lives of millions of people and the future of this planet," said Kim Carstensen, Leader of the WWF Global Climate Initiative. □



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PG	<b>FAME</b>							NEW
	daily:	4:00	6:15	8:45				
	matinee:	1:30	late show:	11:15				
R	<b>MANAGEMENT</b>							NEW
	daily:	5:45	8:00	10:15				
	matinee:	1:15	3:30	late show:	12:15			
R	<b>JENNIFER'S BODY</b>							
	daily:	5:30	7:45	10:00				
	matinee:	1:00	3:15	late show:	12:15			
PG-13	<b>TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF</b>							
	daily:		7:00	9:30				
	matinee:		late show:	12:00				
R	<b>FINAL DESTINATION 4</b>							3D
	daily:	8:00	10:00					
	matinee:		late show:	12:15				
PG	<b>ALIENS IN THE ATTIC</b>							
	daily:							
	matinee:	12:15	2:30	4:45	late show:			
R	<b>WHITEOUT</b>							
	daily:		5:15	7:30	9:45			
	matinee:	12:45	3:00	late show:	12:00			
PG	<b>CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS</b>							3D
	daily:	4:00	6:00					
	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:				

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG	<b>CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS</b>							3D
	daily:	4:15	6:15					
	matinee:	12:15	2:15	late show:				
R	<b>WHITEOUT</b>							
	daily:	5:15	7:30	9:45				
	matinee:	12:45	3:00	late show:	12:00			
R	<b>JENNIFER'S BODY</b>							
	daily:	5:30	7:45	10:00				
	matinee:	1:00	3:15	late show:	12:15			
PG-13	<b>TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF</b>							
	daily:	6:00	8:30					
	matinee:	12:45	3:15	late show:	11:15			
R	<b>THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE</b>							
	daily:	4:00	6:30	9:00				
	matinee:	1:45	late show:	11:30				
PG-13	<b>G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA</b>							
	daily:	6:00	8:45					
	matinee:	12:30	3:30	late show:	11:15			
R	<b>FINAL DESTINATION 4</b>							3D
	daily:	8:15	10:00					
	matinee:		late show:	11:45				

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat



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# Iran tests advanced missiles, raising more concern

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI,  
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran – Iran tested its most advanced missiles Monday to cap two days of war games, raising more international concern and stronger pressure to quickly come clean on the newly revealed nuclear site Tehran was secretly constructing.

State television said the powerful Revolutionary Guard, which controls Iran's missile program, successfully tested upgraded versions of the medium-range Shahab-3 and Sajjil missiles. Both can carry warheads and reach up to 1,200 miles (2,000 kilometers), putting Israel, U.S. military bases in the Middle East, and parts of Europe within striking distance.

The missile tests were meant to flex Iran's military might and show readiness for any military threat.

"Iranian missiles are able to target any place that threatens Iran," said Abdollah Araqi, a top Revolutionary Guard commander, according to the semi-official Fars news agency.

Iran conducted three rounds of missile tests in drills that began Sunday, two days after the U.S. and its allies disclosed the country had been secretly developing an underground uranium enrichment facility. The Western powers warned Iran it must open the site to international inspection or face harsher international sanctions.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hasan Qashqavi said the missile tests had nothing to do with the tension over the site, saying it was part of routine, long-planned military exercises.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said he was concerned about the missile tests. He said Iran must immediately resolve issues surrounding its second nuclear enrichment facility with the U.N.'s nuclear agency.

The newly revealed nuclear site has given greater

urgency to a key meeting on Thursday in Geneva between Iran and six major powers trying to stop its suspected nuclear weapons program. Solana said those talks are now taking place "in a new context."

Britain said Monday's test further illustrates why Europe and the U.S. have serious concerns about Iran's nuclear intentions, and France called it a provocation.

"This sends the wrong signal to the international community at a time when Iran is due to meet" the six world powers, Britain's Foreign Office said. The six nations are the U.S., Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany.

The nuclear site is located in the arid mountains near the holy city of Qom and is believed to be inside a heavily guarded, underground facility belonging to the Revolutionary Guard, according to a document sent by President Barack Obama's administration to lawmakers.

Although there was no confirmation from the U.S. or Iran, a satellite image provided by DigitalGlobe and GeoEye shows what experts believe to be the site on a military base near Qom. According to defense consultancy IHS Janes, which did the analysis of the imagery, it shows a well-fortified facility built into a mountain about 20 miles (30 kilometers) northeast of Qom, with ventilation shafts and a nearby surface-to-air missile site. The image was taken in September.

Iran's Foreign Ministry, however, gave a different location for the site, saying Monday it was near the village of Fordo, which is about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of Qom.

Jane's did not offer any immediate comment on the discrepancy.

After strong condemnations from the U.S. and its allies, Iran said Saturday it will allow U.N. nuclear inspectors

to examine the site.

Israel has trumpeted the latest discoveries as proof of its long-held assertion that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons. Iran's known industrial-scale uranium enrichment plant is in Natanz.

By U.S. estimates, Iran is one to five years away from having nuclear weapons capability, although U.S. intelligence also believes that Iranian leaders have not yet made the decision to build a weapon.

Iran also is developing ballistic missiles that could carry a nuclear warhead. A U.S. intelligence assessment in May, however, said Iran had slowed work on its long-range ballistic missiles and was instead focusing efforts on short- and medium-range missiles like the Shahab.

That assessment paved the way for Obama's decision to shelve the Bush administration's plan for a missile shield in Europe, which was aimed at defending against Iranian intercontinental ballistic missiles. Iran is not expected to have such a missile until 2015 to 2020, according to the report, which was described by a U.S. government official on condition of anonymity because the report is classified.

The Sajjil-2 missile is Iran's most advanced two-stage surface-to-surface missile and is powered entirely by solid-fuel while the older Shahab-3 uses a combination of solid and liquid fuel in its most advanced form, which is also known as the Qadr-F1.

Solid fuel is seen as a technological breakthrough for any missile program as solid fuel increases the accuracy of missiles in reaching targets.

Experts say Sajjil-2 is more accurate than Shahab missiles and its navigation system is more advanced.

State media reported tests overnight of the Shahab-1 and Shahab-2 missiles, with ranges of 185 miles



This photo released by the Iranian semi-official Fars News Agency, claims to show the launch of an Iranian Revolutionary Guard Shahab-3 medium-range missile during a drill at an undisclosed location on Monday, Sept. 28, 2009. Iran said it successfully test-fired the longest-range missiles in its arsenal on Monday, weapons capable of carrying a warhead and striking Israel, U.S. military bases in the Middle East, and parts of Europe. The banner at the right banner reads: 'Missile maneuver of the Great Prophet IV' while the banner at left reads 'O, supreme leader we are ready to sacrifice ourselves for you.'

(AP Photo/Fars News Agency, Ali Shaigan)

(300 kilometers) and 435 miles (700 kilometers) respectively.

That followed tests early Sunday of the short range Fateh, Tondar and Zelzal missiles, which have a range of 120 miles (193 kilometers), 93 miles (150 kilometers) and 130 miles (200 kilometers) respectively.

Iran's last known missile tests were in May when it fired its longest-range solid-fuel missile, Sajjil-2. Tehran said the two-stage surface-to-surface missile has a range of about 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) — capable of striking Israel, U.S. Mideast bases and southeastern Europe. □

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Peru's ex-president Alberto Fujimori is seen in Lima, during the first audience of his fourth trial. In a dramatic turn, Fujimori for the first time Monday accepted legal charges against him from his decade-long presidency, admitting to illegal wiretapping and bribery.

(AFP/PODER JUDICIAL/Francisco Medina)

## Peru's Fujimori admits to corruption, in full fall from grace

by Reynaldo Munoz

LIMA (AFP) — In a dramatic turn, Peru's former president Alberto Fujimori plead guilty Monday of bribing lawmakers and spying on former rivals for the presidency and others during his decade-long presidency.

Fujimori, 71, accepted counts of bribing opposition lawmakers, illegal purchase of a media outlet and wiretapping politicians, journalists and businesspeople through top aide and spymaster Vladimiro Montesinos, who is now in prison.

"I do accept them," Fujimori responded quietly, taking responsibility for the crimes listed at the start of his fourth trial here, after earlier repeated public denials of wrongdoing as president.

Fujimori had pled guilty to charges from his controversial president only once before, in July 2009, when he acknowledged illegally paying Montesinos 15 million dollars. In that case, he received a 7-1/2-year prison term now under appeal.

Among the targets of Fujimori's spying detailed in this trial was his political enemy Mario Vargas Llosa, in 1990, when the award-winning novelist was a rival for the presidency.

Prosecutor Jose Pelaez sought an 8-1/2 year jail sentence for Fujimori on the three charges, a fine of 1.6 million dollars payable to the state, and a total of one million dollars for his victims. "Wiretapping was constant and systematic for people who made the Fujimori government uncomfortable," Pelaez told the court.

He noted that other Fujimori targets included his now ex-wife Susana Higuchi, before their divorce was final; and former UN chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, in 1995, when he was a presidential rival.

The judge set the ex-president's sentencing for Wednesday.

The trial was the fourth and likely last for Fujimori, tracing a full fall from grace for the bespectacled agronomist son of Japanese immigrants who was president from 1990-2000.

He was sentenced in April to 25 years in prison for authorizing a secret military death squad to kill 25 people and ordering the kidnapping of a businessman and a journalist in the early 1990s.

In a separate trial that ended in July, Fujimori, who has been detained since his extradition from Chile in 2007 after living in exile in Japan for seven years, was sentenced to more than seven years in prison for embezzlement.

And in a December 2007 trial, Fujimori was found guilty of abuse of power and sentenced to six years in prison. □

## Honduras to restore liberties after criticism

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The coup-installed government in Honduras took increasingly desperate measures to hold onto power Monday, suspending civil liberties, silencing dissident broadcasters and facing off with hundreds of protesters in the street.

The interim government of Roberto Micheletti, who took office after a June 28 coup, banned a march in support of ousted President Manuel Zelaya and ringed the protesters with riot police.

But at a meeting in Washington, the U.S. representative to the Organization of American States called Zelaya's return "irresponsible and foolish."

The marchers, many of whom covered their mouths with tape to protest government censorship, sat down in the street and vowed not to budge until they were allowed to demonstrate.

Protest leaders insisted that thousands more Zelaya supporters were trying to join but were stopped from leaving poorer neighborhoods or from traveling from the countryside.

"There is brutal repression against the people," Zelaya told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Monday from the Brazilian Embassy, where he has been holed up with 60 supporters since sneaking back into the country on Sept. 21.

Protests have seen little violence so far — the government says three people have been killed since the coup, while protesters put the number at 10. But protest leader Juan Barahona said that could change.

"This mass movement is peaceful, but to the extent they repress us, fence us in and make this method useless, we have to find some other form of struggle," he said.

Authorities cited their fear of violence when they issued an emergency decree Sunday that limits civil liberties for 45 days. The decree bans unauthorized gatherings and lets police arrest people without warrants, rights guaranteed in the Honduran Constitution. It also allows authorities to shut news media for "statements that attack



Soldiers and police officers stand guard outside Globo radio station after its closure in Tegucigalpa, Monday, Sept. 28, 2009. New interim government's measures permit authorities to temporarily close news media outlets that, they say, attack peace and public order.

peace and the public order, or which offend the human dignity of public officials, or attack the law."

Government soldiers raided the offices of Radio Globo and the television station Channel 36, both critics of the Micheletti government, and silenced both. Afterward, the TV station broadcast only a test pattern.

Radio Globo employees scrambled out of an emergency exit to escape the raid that involved as many as 200 soldiers.

"They took away all the equipment," said owner Alejandro Villatoro. "This is the death of the station."

Two journalists covering the raid for Mexico's Televisa and Guatemala's Guatevision were beaten by security forces, who also took their camera, according to Guatemala's ambassador to the Organization of American States, Jorge Skinner. He asked the InterAmerican Human Rights Commission to intervene.

The OAS held an emergency meeting in Washington on Monday after Honduras expelled members of an OAS advance team trying to restart negotiations between the two sides. Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez said the team had not given advance notice of its arrival.

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley condemned the expulsion.

"I think it's time for the de facto regime to put down the shovel," he said. "With every action they keep on making the hole deeper."

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd) Lew Amselem, the U.S. representative to the OAS, also had harsh words for Zelaya. He said returning without an agreement "serves neither the interests of the Honduran people nor those seeking the peaceful reestablishment of the democratic order in Honduras."

He added: "Those who facilitated President Zelaya's return ... have a special responsibility for the prevention of violence and the well-being of the Honduran people." He did not say to whom he was referring.

The increasingly authoritarian actions by the interim government signaled an abrupt shift in strategy after appealing for foreign support and arguing it ousted Zelaya to preserve democracy.

Only last week, Micheletti argued in a letter to the Washington Post that his government was not a coup, citing as evidence that freedom assembly was still allowed: "They do not guarantee freedom of the press, much less a respect for human rights. In Honduras, these freedoms remain intact and vibrant."

He argued that the international community will have no choice but to recognize a Nov. 29 vote — "the ultimate civil exercise of any democracy — a free and open presidential election." Zelaya supporters noted that the emergency decree effectively outlaws any campaigning until two weeks before election day.

"If they can't campaign ... what happens then to the electoral solution?" asked protest leader Rafael Alegria. □



# Terror charges dropped against Zimbabwe activist

By CHENGETAI ZVAUYA,  
Associated Press Writer

HARARE, Zimbabwe — A prominent human rights activist and her co-accused cannot be tried — now or in the future — on terror charges because they were beaten and tortured in jail, Zimbabwe's Supreme Court ruled Monday. Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku said the court was issuing a permanent stay of prosecution in the case of Jestina Mukoko and eight other defendants because their constitutional rights had been violated.

Such a ruling from judges appointed by longtime President Robert Mugabe could signal a new willingness on his part to meet demands for reform from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, his partner in the country's troubled unity government. But in a country that seems to lurch from promising to perilous from day to day, trends are hard to spot.

Innocent Gonese, a member of parliament from Tsvangirai's party, said the judgment could be "the beginning of good things to come, politically," but added that scores of other party activists remain jailed or face charges.

Richard Smith, a South Africa-based human rights

activist, said the ruling could show an emerging streak of independence among judges known for taking orders from Mugabe's ZANU-PF party. Mukoko sobbed with joy in the courtroom, telling reporters it was a "happy day for me and my family."

She had testified during a bail hearing that she had been tortured and assaulted during detention. The defendants had bloodied, swollen faces during court appearances late last year.

Accusations that Mukoko and the others had been plotting to overthrow Mugabe had been widely denounced as trumped up and politically motivated. Neighboring governments have said they believe the allegations were baseless.

Tsvangirai had said the case undermined the coalition his former opposition party formed with Mugabe earlier this year.

The defendants had included members of Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change party, and some Zimbabweans had speculated the case was being pursued to pressure Tsvangirai to make concessions, or by Mugabe hard-liners to create tension in the unity government.

Mukoko was taken from her home in early December and

held at an undisclosed location until being jailed Dec. 23.

An early indication that at least some in the Mugabe camp saw pursuing the case as a mistake came during a tug-of-war over bail. Mukoko was freed on bail in March, only to have a Harare magistrate revoke that in May, prompting international criticism.

A day after the magistrate's order, Mukoko was free again. Tsvangirai had raised the issue with Mugabe, and Tsvangirai's spokesman said they ordered the justice minister to make sure bail was reinstated.

Zimbabwe's neighbors had urged Mugabe, in power since independence in 1980, to form a partnership with former labor leader Tsvangirai after last year's presidential election that was marred by violence. In forming their coalition in February, the longtime opponents pledged to work together to turn around economic and political collapse.

Since the coalition was formed, Mugabe has demanded that Tsvangirai do more to get international sanctions lifted and restore foreign aid and investment. Tsvangirai has complained about continuing human rights violations.

Both sides, though, say they see the coalition as the way



Zimbabwean human rights activist Jestina Mukoko, right, is embraced by an unidentified person outside the court in Harare, Zimbabwe Monday Sept. 28, 2009. Zimbabwe's Supreme Court ruled Monday that Mukoko cannot be tried, now or in the future, on terror charges because she was beaten and tortured in jail. Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku said the court was issuing a permanent stay of prosecution in the case of Jestina Mukoko and eight other defendants because their constitutional rights had been violated.

(AP Photo)

forward. It is Mugabe's only hope for taking Zimbabwe out of international isolation, and it has brought Tsvangirai closer to power than any election.

Nicole Fritz, director of the independent, South Africa-based Southern Africa Litigation Centers said whatever led the Supreme Court to issue Monday's decision, it had set a precedent that could help others in Zimbabwe whose rights have been abused.

"At a time when things in Zimbabwe seem ... precariously perched and one

is looking for a sign of whether Zimbabwe is moving forward or falling back into the abyss, this ruling must stand as some sort of positive indication," Fritz said.

Relations eased enough recently for the European Union to send in its first high-level delegation since 2002. But the delegation left Sept. 13 saying Europe would not remove sanctions targeting Mugabe and his loyalists or resume development aid until more is done to make power-sharing work and restore human rights. □



Somalis carry a wounded man after he was injured, during fighting between the Islamic insurgents and government soldiers, in Mogadishu, Somalia, Monday, Sept. 28, 2009.

(AP Photo/Mohamed Sheikh Nor)

By MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN,

Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Mortars and missiles pounded parts of the Somali capital

on Monday, killing at least 13 civilians in two separate battles between Islamic militiamen and the African Union peacekeeping force, witnesses and officials said.

## 13 civilians killed as mortars hit Somali capital

In the first battle, heavily armed Islamist insurgents attacked a Burundian contingent of the AU force based at a former military academy in southwestern Mogadishu. Witnesses said eight civilians were killed.

Somali government spokesman Shiek Abdirisak Qeylow confirmed the battle took place but did not give any other details. AU peacekeeping force spokesman Barigye Bahoku also confirmed the fighting.

Later Monday, residents reported missiles pounding Mogadishu's main market and said they were fired from an AU base nearby. Witnesses say they saw at least five civilians killed.

However, Bahoku said AU soldiers did not target the market in the city's south and

instead were firing to protect a cargo ship docking at the port, which was being attacked by Islamic insurgents.

The African Union force, which is meant to protect key government installations such as the main air and sea ports, has become the main target of Islamic militias keen to overthrow the fragile U.N.-backed government. A loose alliance of Islamic groups opposed to the government control most of Mogadishu and other areas of southern Somalia.

Somalia has not had an effective government since 1991 when warlords overthrew dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and then turned on each other. The country has since descended into chaos and anarchy, and since last year has become a piracy haven.

Earlier on Monday, a firing squad of 10 al-Shabab men killed two Somalis in Mogadishu's main livestock market after the group accused them of being spies for foreign organizations.

Al-Shabab's Mogadishu chief Ali Mohamed Hussein says the group carried out the executions after determining that the two men worked for the AU force in Somalia and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The group's members vow allegiance to al-Qaida and it has foreign fighters in its ranks, raising fears al-Qaida is seeking to make a base in Somalia.

Al-Shabab has carried out several whippings, amputations and executions to enforce its own strict interpretation of Islam. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Another Favre finish: Vikes rally past 49ers 27-24



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The end was as good as the Vikings could have imagined: Brett Favre(notes) zipped a pass to a little-used reserve wide receiver in the back of the end

### Vick does little in return, Eagles rout Chiefs

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick(notes) was a super decoy.

Getting significant contributions from their youngsters and backups, the Philadelphia Eagles routed the Kansas City Chiefs 34-14 in Vick's return to the NFL on Sunday.

The Eagles didn't need much from Vick and they got nothing from Donovan McNabb(notes) or Brian Westbrook(notes), who both sat out with injuries.

Kevin Kolb(notes) threw for 327 yards and two touchdowns, LeSean McCoy(notes) had 84 yards rushing and one TD, and DeSean Jackson(notes) and Brent Celek(notes) each had 100-plus yards receiving

and one score for Philadelphia (2-1).

Kolb became the first quarterback to throw for 300 yards in his first two career starts. While he did most of the work, Vick got all the attention.

Playing his first regular-season game since Dec. 31, 2006—1,001 days ago—Vick ran once for 7 yards and threw two incomplete passes.

"It's a different role, but it is what it is," Vick said. "It was a small look. We have so much in store for the future."

Vick will have more chances to display the skills that earned him the Superman nickname back when he was a three-time Pro Bowl quarterback with the Atlanta Falcons. For now,

zone in the final seconds for a classic Favre finish.

Greg Lewis(notes) leaped for a 32-yard touchdown catch with 2 seconds left while a flattened Favre watched from his stomach, and the Vikings stunned the San Francisco 49ers 27-24 on Sunday to stay unbeaten.

In his first real home game with his new team, Favre overcame a bunch of bad throws and a few more hard hits to his almost-40-year-old body and found that winning touch again.

"It's hard to even recall all of 'em. This one was pretty special," said Favre, who now has 43 comebacks from fourth-quarter deficits or ties on his career record.

An official review confirmed Lewis's feet were inbounds, sending the sellout crowd into a frenzy.

"I've had some hard losses. This is just another one for the list," 49ers cornerback Nate Clements(notes) said. "We just have to keep chopping away."

The first five series of the second half: Three punts,

Favre's first interception, and a turnover on downs. The Vikings (3-0), who gained only 85 yards on Adrian Peterson's 19 carries, still had three timeouts left and were able to force a punt. They got the ball back at their 20 with 89 seconds remaining.

"I didn't say a whole lot," Favre said. "I knew what I was thinking: We blew our chances."

Well, not quite all of them.

The last play began with 12 seconds left, and Favre stepped forward in the pocket and slid to the right by design to buy time for his receivers to move in position. Instead of throwing a ball up for grabs, he figured he could get close enough to the line of scrimmage to fire a line drive that would be tougher to defend.

Lewis watched the quarterback's eyes, and broke the other way—Favre said he didn't even know who was running across the end zone—to find room near the right corner.

He caught his first pass from Favre, who completed six throws on that drive, and

looked forward to the next one.

"The offensive line was fired up. Adrian was fired up, and the receivers were fired up. And Brett fell right in. He was fired up, too, like: 'We're going to get this done,'" Lewis said. "And that's the attitude that we took out there on the field."

That's exactly why the Vikings wanted to sign Favre so badly.

Defensive end Jared Allen(notes) was asked what he thought when the offense set up for the final possession. Favre finished 24 for 47 for 301 yards and two touchdowns, the most passes he's thrown in a game since Nov. 11, 2007, when he beat the Vikings while with Green Bay by going 33 for 46 for 351 yards and three touchdowns. The Packers, by the way, are up next.

Their defense is surely eager to put some pressure on an old teammate. Favre took plenty of blows from the 49ers (2-1) and listed aches to his right foot, left knee, both shoulders and neck when asked for a report on his health. □



directly under center once. Kolb was on the sideline for the 10 plays Vick was in at QB.

Vick was expected to run Philadelphia's version of the wildcat offense, but McCoy took most of those snaps.

With Vick on the field, the

Eagles gained a net total of 30 yards. They got 390 without him. Or McNabb. Or Westbrook.

Jackson finished with a career-high 149 yards receiving, including a 64-yard TD. Celek had 104 yards on eight catches. □



# Cleveland throws party to welcome Shaq



CLEVELAND (AP)—Shaq got in one last party before training camp.

Shaquille O'Neal(notes), the big man Cleveland is counting on to deliver this championship-starved city a title, was welcomed to town Sunday with a star-studded party that included sports celebrities and Average Joes looking to rub elbows with them.

Fashionably late, O'Neal arrived in an SUV at 11:15 p.m. as fans, one of them holding a life-size cardboard cutout of O'Neal in an Orlando Magic uniform, cheered on the sidewalks and took pictures of the town's newest superstar, who will be teammates with

reigning league MVP LeBron James(notes).

O'Neal has had a good first impression of Cleveland.

"It's a nice town," he said. "The entertainment is already here. Everything is here. The Browns are here, LeBron is here and now I'm here."

The 37-year-old O'Neal was acquired by the Cavaliers in June, shortly after the team was eliminated by Orlando in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The Cavs, who open camp Monday, feel he is the missing piece to help James win his first title—and Cleveland's first in a major sport since 1964.

The Cavs won 66 games in the regular season, 10 in the

playoffs and still came up short last season.

With O'Neal, there are no more excuses.

"I'm settling into a damn good team, so the sky is the limit for us," said O'Neal, who has spent the past week out with James and other players at the Cleveland Clinic Courts—the Cavs' training facility—in Independence. Fans lined up more than an hour outside The Barley House in the downtown Warehouse District for a chance to see Cleveland's newest wonder: Shaq.

Before the guest of honor arrived, former Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar, boxing champion Kelly Pavlik, Cleveland Browns

return specialist Joshua Cribbs, several members of the Cleveland Indians, Olympic gold medalist Dominique Moceanu and former Cavs star Austin Carr walked the red carpet.

James was a no-show, but Cavaliers teammates Mo Williams(notes) and Anderson Varejao(notes) hung out and partied with O'Neal, who hasn't settled on a nickname yet in Cleveland. □

## Khloe Kardashian, Lakers' Lamar Odom get married



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lamar Odom(notes) and Khloe Kardashian have tied the knot.

The Los Angeles Lakers forward and the reality TV starlet were married Sunday at a private residence in Beverly Hills.

The bride was walked down the aisle by her stepfather, Bruce Jenner.

Odom's teammates Luke Walton(notes) and Sasha Vujacic(notes) attended the ceremony, along with Lakers coach Phil Jackson.

Kardashian, 25, appears with her family on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." She and her sister Kourtney co-star in the E! spinoff show, "Kourtney and Khloe Take Miami."

Odom, 29, agreed to a four-year contract to stay with the Lakers this summer after helping the team win the franchise's 15th NBA championship in June. □

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# Safina, Kuznetsova ousted at Pan Pacific Open



TOKYO (AP)—Top-ranked and defending champion Dinara Safina was knocked out in the second round of the Toray Pan Pacific Open on Monday by Taiwanese qualifier Chang Kai-chen only

hours before fellow Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova was ousted in another upset. Safina was serving for the match in the third set when she double-faulted to give up a break. Chang, ranked 132nd

and playing only for the fourth time in a WTA main draw, held her own serve and then broke Safina again for a 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-5 win to reach the third round of the \$2 million tournament.

“The double fault didn’t affect me that much,” Safina said. “Whether it’s a double fault or a mistake it’s the same. It’s just the way I played at 5-4. It wasn’t the right game, I didn’t use my first serve the whole game.”

Chang converted her third match point on Safina’s forehand error after the Russian had fought back from 0-40 to 30-40.

“On match point, I was just thinking the same thing as always,” Chang said. “I wasn’t

thinking ‘Oh, I have match point, I’m going to win.’” Safina’s status as the world’s top-ranked player has been under scrutiny and a third-round loss to 72nd-ranked Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic at the U.S. Open did little to ease that. She has never won a major title—having lost finals at the French and Australian Opens this year—but has been consistent in other tournaments, winning three titles this year and four in 2008, including the Tokyo tournament.

“This is not an easy moment but that’s sport,” Safina said. “I didn’t play good in the match today. I had a lot chances in the third set and just let it go.” □

# Gustafson captures first LPGA win in 6 years

DANVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Sophie Gustafson questioned whether she would ever win another LPGA Tour title.

“Yeah, absolutely,” she said, grinning. Gustafson is finally an LPGA Tour winner again, six years after her last championship, cruising to a four-stroke victory over top-ranked Lorena Ochoa in the CVS/pharmacy LPGA Challenge on Sunday.

The 35-year-old Swede shot

a 4-under 68 at Blackhawk Country Club and finished at 20-under 268 for her first title since the 2003 Samsung World Championship. She takes home the \$165,000 winning purse for her fifth career tour victory. She beamed while walking across the bridge to the 18th green, even high-fiving a tournament official. Once it was official, she shared a long embrace with caddie Tamara Hyett. It was an especially

challenging tournament given the unseasonably hot temperatures for September in the Bay Area—it reached the mid-90s Sunday. The 5-foot-10 Gustafson, who overcame her first two bogeys on the front nine all week, never dazzled but she didn’t have to on a day Ochoa struggled with her short game among other shots. Gustafson eagled No. 5 and then gained a stroke on Ochoa with her birdie on No. 13. Gustafson finished the final round with four birdies. She considers this among her best tournaments yet in terms of consistency over all four rounds despite never feeling comfortable with the putter. “I had my moments,” she said of her short game. “I’m just happy it’s over.” Ochoa could sense it was Gustafson’s day



from the start Sunday. Last week at the Samsung, Ochoa edged Gustafson by three strokes to tie for fourth. “I have felt good but I haven’t gotten it done,” Gustafson said of her past events. “I felt good about my game, but the thing about my game is it can come and go. I don’t know what to expect.” □

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# Militares silencian medios pro Zelaya en Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Militares hondureños sacaron el lunes del aire a dos medios de comunicación leales al derrocado presidente Manuel Zelaya, horas antes de que sus simpatizantes lanzaran una "ofensiva final" para intentar su restitución y que expresara temor a un inminente asalto a la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa donde está refugiado.

Mientras, el Gobierno de facto que lo reemplazó tras el golpe militar del 28 de junio se aislaba aún más ante la presión internacional y suspendió el domingo las garantías constitucionales ante anuncios de nuevas manifestaciones a favor de Zelaya. En una conferencia prensa desde la embajada de Brasil, donde está atrincherado desde que regresó clandestinamente a Honduras el 21 de septiembre, Zelaya dijo que militares podrían irrumpir pronto en la sede diplomática, sitiada por centenares de soldados.

"Temo que en las próximas horas asalten esta sede diplomática", expresó Zelaya. "La comunidad internacional debe actuar (...) pido protección al mundo", agregó. Seguidores de Zelaya intentarán mostrar el lunes su músculo popular con una manifestación por la capital hondureña, la cual desafiaría la decisión del Gobierno de facto de suspender las



El depuesto presidente de Honduras Manuel Zelaya habla durante una rueda de prensa en la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa, 28 sep 2009. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

garantías constitucionales de libertad de movimiento. Soldados en uniformes de campaña asaltaron antes del amanecer Radio Globo y el canal de televisión Cholutat Sur, apoyándose en un decreto presidencial que permite silenciar medios hostiles.

El Gobierno de facto dijo además que retiraría dentro de 10 días la inmunidad diplomática a la embajada de Brasil.

"Hacemos un llamado a todos los grupos de manifestantes afines al señor Zelaya para que depongan sus actitudes de provocación y acaten las presentes disposiciones",

dijo un comunicado de la presidencia leído el domingo por la noche en una cadena de radio y televisión.

El Gobierno de facto acusa a Zelaya de incitar a la violencia desde la embajada de Brasil, donde el presidente de bigote

negro y sombrero Stetson de vaquero cumple el lunes una semana sitiado por policías con pasamontañas y soldados armados hasta los dientes.

Un decreto presidencial emitido este fin de semana suspende por 45 días el

derecho a la libertad de asociación y movimiento, además de autorizar las detenciones sin orden judicial y el silenciamiento de medios de prensa críticos.

El presidente de facto Roberto Micheletti profundizó el fin de semana su aislamiento internacional, negándose a recibir a los embajadores de Argentina, España, México y Venezuela, llamados a consulta tras el golpe.

Además, dio el sábado a Brasil un plazo de 10 días para que defina el estatus de Zelaya, exigiendo que los asile o entregue para ser juzgado por supuestamente violar la Constitución con un plebiscito que habría despejado el camino para su reelección. El ultimátum puso a Honduras en rumbo de colisión con la potencia regional. El presidente brasileño, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, dijo que Zelaya podía quedarse en su embajada el tiempo que quisiera. □

## Sismo de magnitud 4,3 sacude noroeste de Venezuela

CARACAS (Reuters) - Un sismo de magnitud 4,3 sacudió el domingo por la noche la región noroccidental de Venezuela, sin que por el momento se hayan reportado daños materiales ni lesionados, informaron las autoridades locales.

La estatal Funvisis dijo que el movimiento telúrico, registrado a 27 kilómetros de profundidad, se produjo a las 20.50 hora local (0120 GMT del lunes) a unos 2 kilómetros al este de la ciudad de Coro, capital del estado de Falcón.

Pese a la cercanía con esa localidad, Protección Civil y las autoridades dijeron que no habían recibido reportes de daños o afectados. En ese estado está ubicado el Centro Refinador Paraguaná, conformado por las dos mayores refinerías del país y con capacidad para procesar 940.000 barriles por día (bpd) □

## Oposición colombiana elige sus candidatos presidenciales

BOGOTA (Reuters) - El Partido Liberal y el Polo Democrático, los principales partidos de oposición de Colombia, eligieron el domingo a sus candidatos para las elecciones del 2010, que eventualmente enfrentarán al presidente Alvaro Uribe si es habilitado para buscar su segunda reelección inmediata.

El ex ministro de Defensa Rafael Pardo ganó la consulta interna del Partido Liberal, mientras que el senador Gustavo Petro dio la sorpresa siendo el triunfador en la del izquierdista Polo Democrático Alternativo.

Pardo obtuvo más de 338.038 votos y se impuso a Alfonso Gómez, Cecilia López, Anibal Gaviria, Alfonso López, Héctor Helí Rojas e Iván Marulanda, quienes aspiraban a la candidatura liberal, informó la Registraduría Nacional contabilizadas más de 18.000 de las 23.600 mesas de votación en todo el país.

"Esta es una victoria de muchas y de muchos. Hoy nace un liberalismo nuevo, un liberalismo ético, el liberalismo del siglo XXI destinado a defender la democracia colombiana", dijo

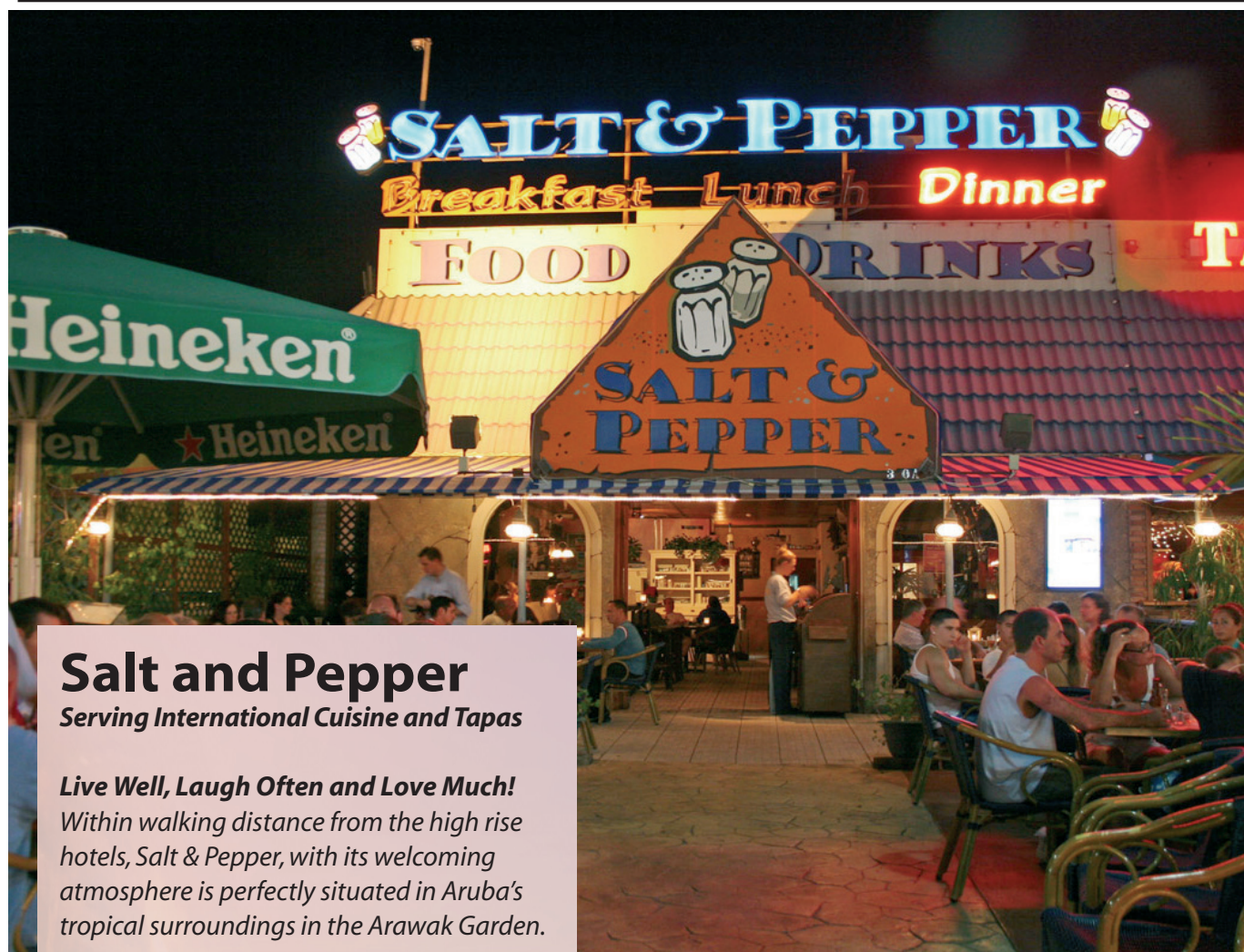
Pardo en su sede al proclamar su triunfo. "El pueblo liberal ha hablado claro", agregó.

Por su parte, Petro venció al ex magistrado Carlos Gaviria y a Edison Lucio Torres, con más de 198.193 sufragios, con la misma cantidad de puestos de votación escrutados. "Este es un veredicto popular sobre una estrategia y es que el Polo debe convocar el gran acuerdo democrático en Colombia", manifestó Petro en medio de sus seguidores.

"Acabo de recibir un mensaje verbal de Carlos Gaviria donde reconoce mi triunfo", agregó el político, un ex guerrillero desmovilizado del M-19.

Las consultas se cumplieron en medio de una marcada abstención, en calma y en medio de un fuerte dispositivo de seguridad por parte de las Fuerzas Militares y de la Policía Nacional, para evitar sabotajes de la guerrilla izquierdista, sobre todos en apartadas zonas rurales. Un poco más de 29 millones de ciudadanos estaban habilitados para acudir a las urnas y participar en las consultas internas. □





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